

Does your homepage look like this?

astr2600student

News Feed

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Issues

Stars

GitHub Bootcamp If you are still new to things, we've provided a few walkthroughs to get you started.

- Set Up Git**
A quick guide to help you get started with Git.
- Create A Repository**
Create the place where your commits will be stored.
- Fork a Repository**
Copy a repo to create a new, unique project from its contents.
- Be social**
Follow a friend. Watch a project.

You've been added to the **ASTR2600f12 organization!**
Here are some quick tips for a first-time organization member

Use the switch context button in the upper left corner of this screen to switch between your personal context (astr2600student) and any organizations you are a member of.

defunkt

After you switch contexts you'll see an organization-focused dashboard that lists out organization repositories and activities.

Your Repositories (2) [New repository](#)

Find a Repository...

All Repositories Public Private Sources Forks

- astr2600student/ASTR2600_shared
- astr2600student/ASTR2600public

Programs: Keywords

Keyword Variables

- Optional “named” arguments
- Optional means the user doesn’t have to set them, so your code needs to know how to deal with empty keywords
- Often used as boolean flags

Boolean Keyword

```
function square,x,verbose=verbose
    retvar = x^2
    if keyword_set(verbose) then print,retvar
    return,retvar
end
```

- print `retvar` only if `verbose` is set to non-zero
- `keyword_set` checks whether the keyword has been set
 - it recognizes *any non-zero* as True

Keyword

```
; take x to some power  
; the power defaults to 1 if not set  
function power,x,pow=pow  
    if n_elements(pow) eq 0 then pow = 1  
    return,x^pow  
end
```

- pow is some number
- can't use keyword_set because 0 is a valid power
- if n_elements(keyword) eq 0 ... sets a *default value* for the keyword

Keywords in Python

```
def power(x, pow=2):  
    return x**pow
```

```
def square(x, verbose=False):  
    retval = x**2  
    if verbose:  
        print retval  
    return retval
```

- Declare defaults along with the keyword name

Keyword Oddities

```
function square,x,verbose=verbose
    retvar = x^2
    if keyword_set(verbose) then print,retvar
    return,retvar
end
```

```
function cube,x,verbose=verb
    retvar = x^3
    if keyword_set(verb) then print,retvar
    return,retvar
end
```

- The variable name is on the *right side* of the keyword declaration

Keyword Oddities

- The variable name is on the *right side* of the keyword declaration
- but the keyword you call with is on the *left side*

```
IDL> x=cube(2,/verbose)  
      8
```

```
IDL> x=square(2,/verbose)  
      4
```

```
IDL> x=cube(2,verbose=1)  
      8
```

```
IDL> x=square(2,verbose=1)  
      4
```


Debugging

Bugs and Errors

- Errors are things that IDL knows are wrong
 - syntax errors - caught at compile time
 - “Variable is undefined” errors - caught at run time

Bugs and Errors

- “Bugs” are things that cause undesired behavior, but aren’t wrong code
- i.e., if the function `square(2)` returned 5, but the correct answer is 4, that is a bug
- it “works” - it gives you output and doesn’t crash - but it works wrong.

Errors

- Syntax errors are caught when you “compile” (`.compile` or `.run`) your code
- IDL will try to compile the rest of the code even after a syntax error!
- This can result in a LONG list of errors!
- *ALWAYS address the first error first!*

```
if 1 then print,5
```

```
function test1
```

```
    x = 4
```

```
    print,x
```

```
end
```

```
function test2
```

```
    print,x
```

```
end
```

```
function test3,x
```

```
    x = 5
```

```
    return,x
```

```
end
```

Here's a .pro file. I'll try to compile it and show you the errors.

All 3 of these functions are syntactically correct.

```
IDL> .r test
```

```
function test1
```

```
      ^
```

```
% Procedure header must appear first and only once: TEST1
```

```
  At: /Users/adam/Dropbox/astr2600/lectures/test.pro, Line 4
```

```
% 1 Compilation error(s) in module $MAIN$.
```

```
function test2
```

```
      ^
```

```
% Procedure header must appear first and only once: TEST2
```

```
  At: /Users/adam/Dropbox/astr2600/lectures/test.pro, Line 9
```

```
% 1 Compilation error(s) in module $MAIN$.
```

```
function test3,x
```

```
      ^
```

```
% Procedure header must appear first and only once: TEST3
```

```
  At: /Users/adam/Dropbox/astr2600/lectures/test.pro, Line 13
```

```
    return,x
```

```
      ^
```

```
% Return statement in procedures can't have values.
```

```
  At: /Users/adam/Dropbox/astr2600/lectures/test.pro, Line 15
```

```
% 2 Compilation error(s) in module $MAIN$.
```

```
if 1 then print,5  
function test1  
    x = 4  
    print,x  
end  
  
function test2  
    print,x  
end  
  
function test3,x  
    x = 5  
    return,x  
end
```

← This is the only real error
(you're not allowed to have
anything but functions and
procedures in a function/
procedure file)

...unless the “something else”
is at the end, followed by end


```
IDL> .r test
```

```
function test1
```

```
      ^
```

```
% Procedure header must appear first and only once: TEST1
```

```
  At: /Users/adam/Dropbox/astr2600/lectures/test.pro, Line 4
```

```
% 1 Compilation error(s) in module $MAIN$.
```

- The “compiler” tells you the closest location of an error, but does not make clear how to fix the error
- This is one of the challenges of programming - figuring out what obscure error messages mean
 - also a great reason to make YOUR error messages explicit!



```
print, "message"  
  
function test1  
    print, message  
end
```

What error message will you get if you compile this file?

- A) % You compiled a main program while inside a procedure. Returning.
- B) % Procedure header must appear first and only once: TEST1
- C) % End of file encountered before end of program.
- D) % Syntax error.
- E) None of the above



```
function test1
    print, "message"
end

print, "message"
print, test1()

end
```

What error message will you get if you compile this file?

- A) % You compiled a main program while inside a procedure. Returning.
- B) % Procedure header must appear first and only once: TEST1
- C) % End of file encountered before end of program.
- D) % Syntax error.
- E) None of the above



```
print "Hi"  
  
def f(x):  
    return x*5  
  
print f("Hi")
```

Will this code work? (hint: `f("Hi")` does)

- A) Yes
- B) No, can't have prints before and after the function definition
- C) No, I don't believe your hint, you can't multiply a string by a number
- D) Just no.
- E) None of the above



```
print "Hi"  
  
def f(x):  
    return x*5  
  
print f("Hi")
```

Will this code work? (hint: `f("Hi")` does)

A) Yes

```
In [111]: %run hi5.py  
Hi  
HiHiHiHiHi
```

Runtime Errors

```
function test2  
    print,x  
end
```

```
IDL> print,test2()
```

```
% PRINT: Variable is undefined: X.
```

```
% Execution halted at: TEST2
```

```
10 /Users/adam/Dropbox/astr260
```

```
%  
$MAIN$
```

- `test2` is syntactically correct, but `x` is undefined
- Error message tells you:
 - `x` is undefined when you try to print it
 - the error is on line 10 of [filename] in function `test2`

```
In [118]: ??f
```

```
Type: function
```

```
String Form: <function f at 0x10b030f50>
```

```
File: /Users/adam/Dropbox/astr2600s13/lectures/lecture13notes.py
```

```
Definition: f(x)
```

```
Source:
```

```
def f(x):  
    return y
```

?? shows you source code

```
In [119]: f(1)
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
```

```
File "<ipython-input-119-90b61b657670>", line 1, in <module>
```

```
    f(1)
```

```
File "/Users/adam/Dropbox/astr2600s13/lectures/lecture13notes.py", line 2, in f
```

```
    return y
```

```
NameError: global name 'y' is not defined
```

Can't return an undefined variable:
'y' is not defined!

Problem is on line 2
of the function "f"

If your code doesn't work...

- You should ask first, “What error messages is it giving me?”
- “Does that tell me why it doesn't work?”
- Ask yourself these questions before you ask me or Cameron.

Runtime Errors

- In IDL, act just like `stop` statements
- They halt the code wherever the error was, allowing you to inspect *local* variables
- To get out of the halted code (the *debugger*), use `retall` (“return all”)

Runtime Errors

- Python doesn't kick you out into the debugger automatically, you need to enable it first:

```
In [120]: %pdb
Automatic pdb calling has been turned ON
In [121]: f(1)
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<ipython-input-121-90b61b657670>", line 1, in <module>
    f(1)
  File "/Users/adam/Dropbox/astr2600s13/lectures/lecture13notes.py", line 2, in f
    return y
NameError: global name 'y' is not defined

> /Users/adam/Dropbox/astr2600s13/lectures/lecture13notes.py(2)f()
   1 def f(x):
----> 2     return y
      3

ipdb> █
```

Reading

- Read section 13.6. It is about debugging. Debugging is important, but there are too many words for me to repeat in class.

Debugging

1. Determine that there is a bug
2. Identify the bug
3. Treat the bug like a “whuduzitdo” - understand what the code is *actually* doing
4. Correct the bug

Debugging

1. Determine that there is a bug
2. Identify the bug
 - A. Create a test that “fails” on the bug
3. Treat the bug like a “whuduzitdo” - understand what the code is *actually* doing
4. Correct the bug
 - A. Check that the test now does NOT fail



```
def square(x):  
    x = x**2
```

Will this function run?

A) Yes

B) No



```
def square(x):  
    x = x**2
```

Will it set x to be its square?

A) Yes

B) No



```
def square(x):  
    x = x**2
```

Will it return x^2 ?

A) Yes

B) No

```
def square(x):  
    x = x**2  
  
def test_square():  
    assert square(4) == 16
```

In [125]: %run square.py

In [126]: test_square()

Traceback (most recent call last):

File "<ipython-input-126-108216126958>", line 1, in <module>

test_square()

File "/Users/adam/Dropbox/astr2600s13/lectures/square.py", line 5, in test_square

assert square(4) == 16

AssertionError

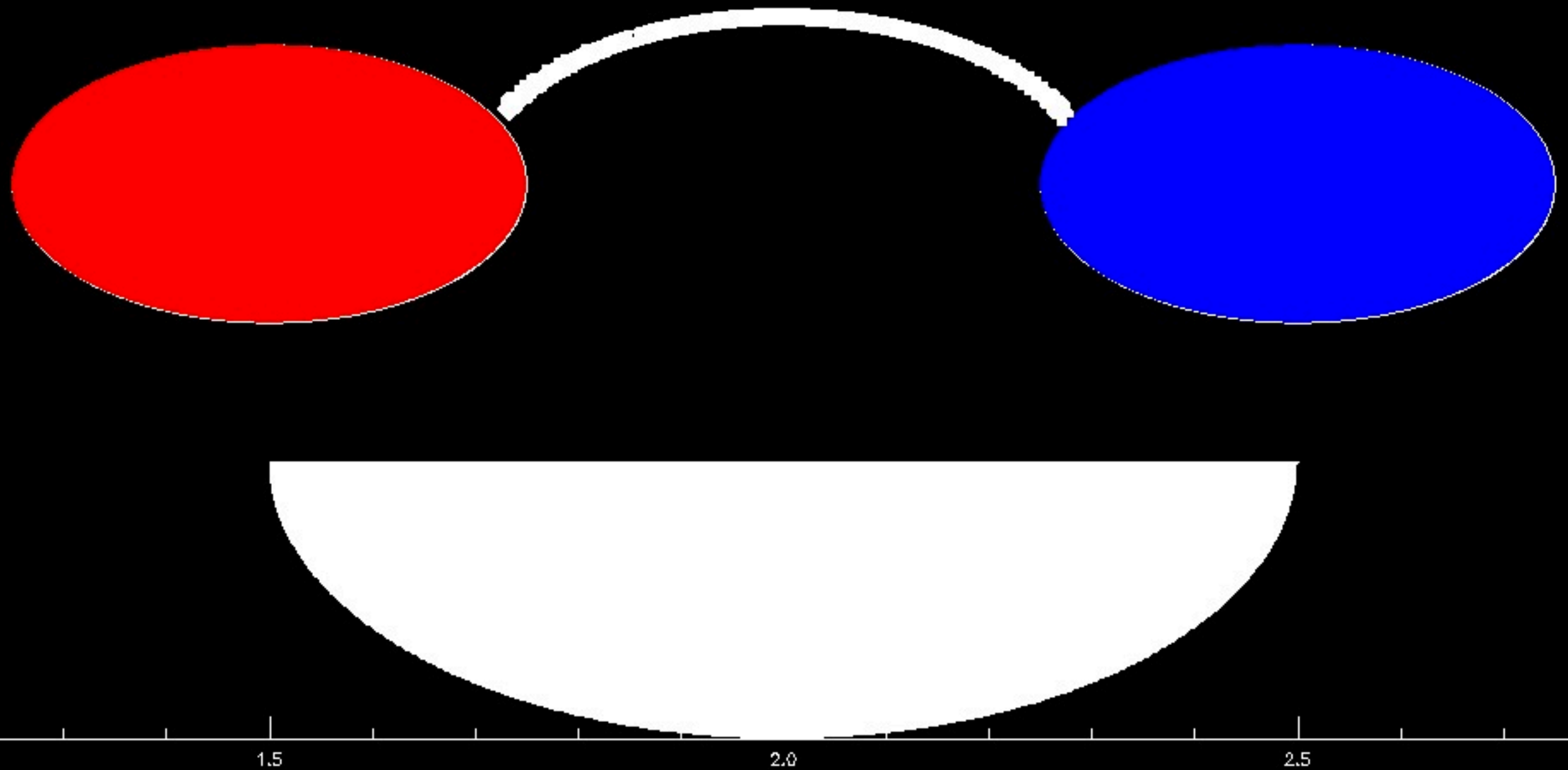
```
def square(x):  
    return x**2  
  
def test_square():  
    assert square(4) == 16
```

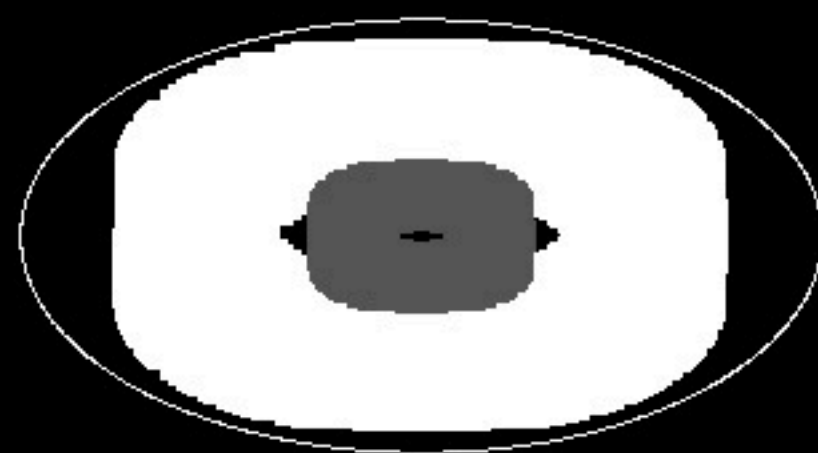
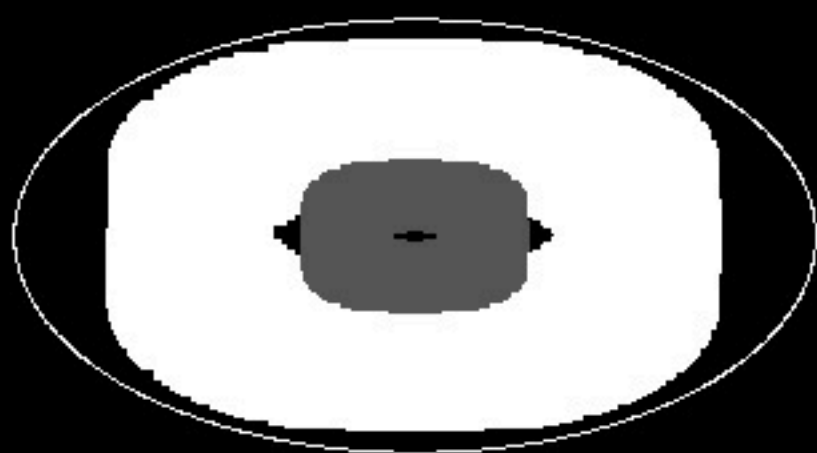
```
In [127]: %run square.py  
In [128]: test_square()
```

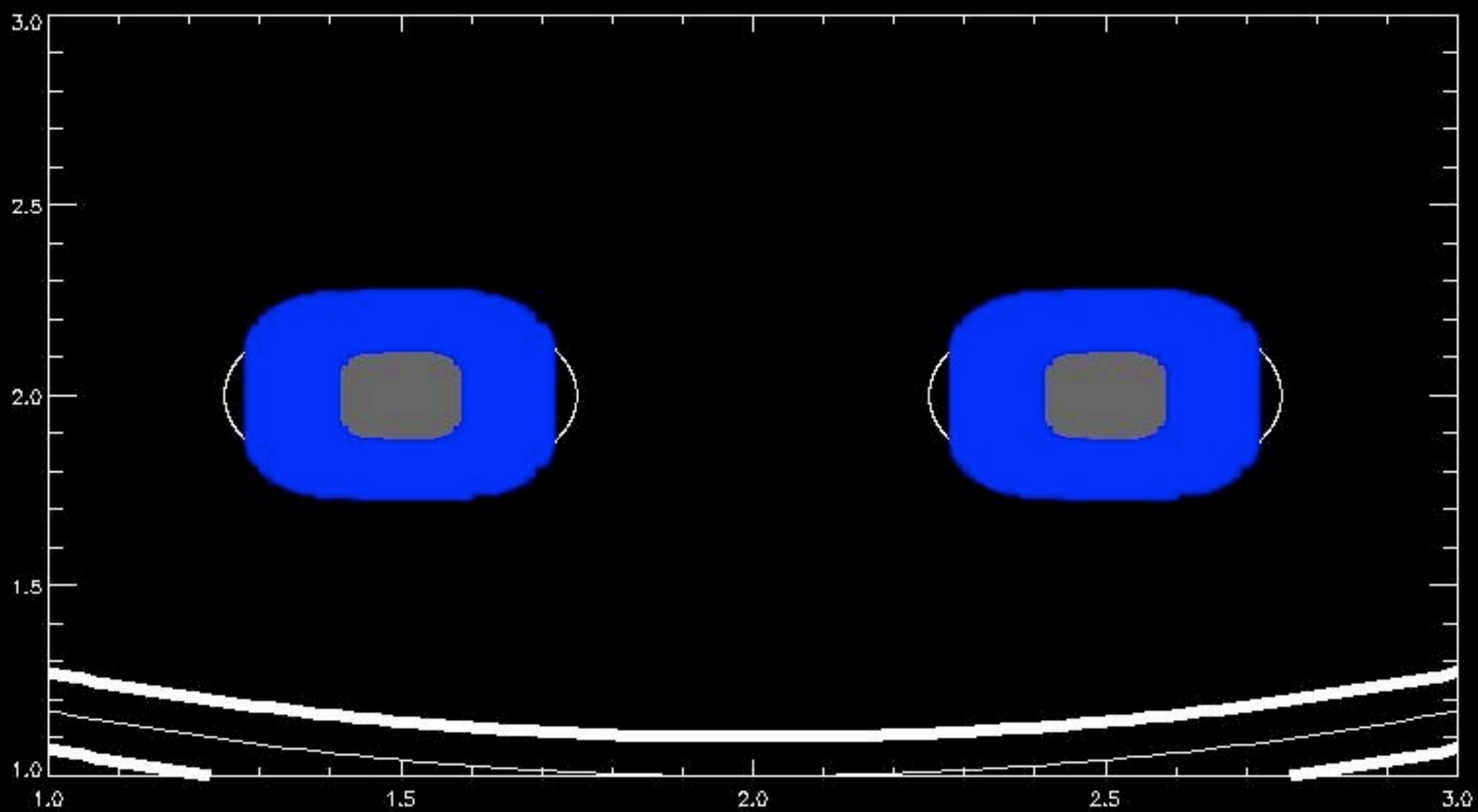
Debugging

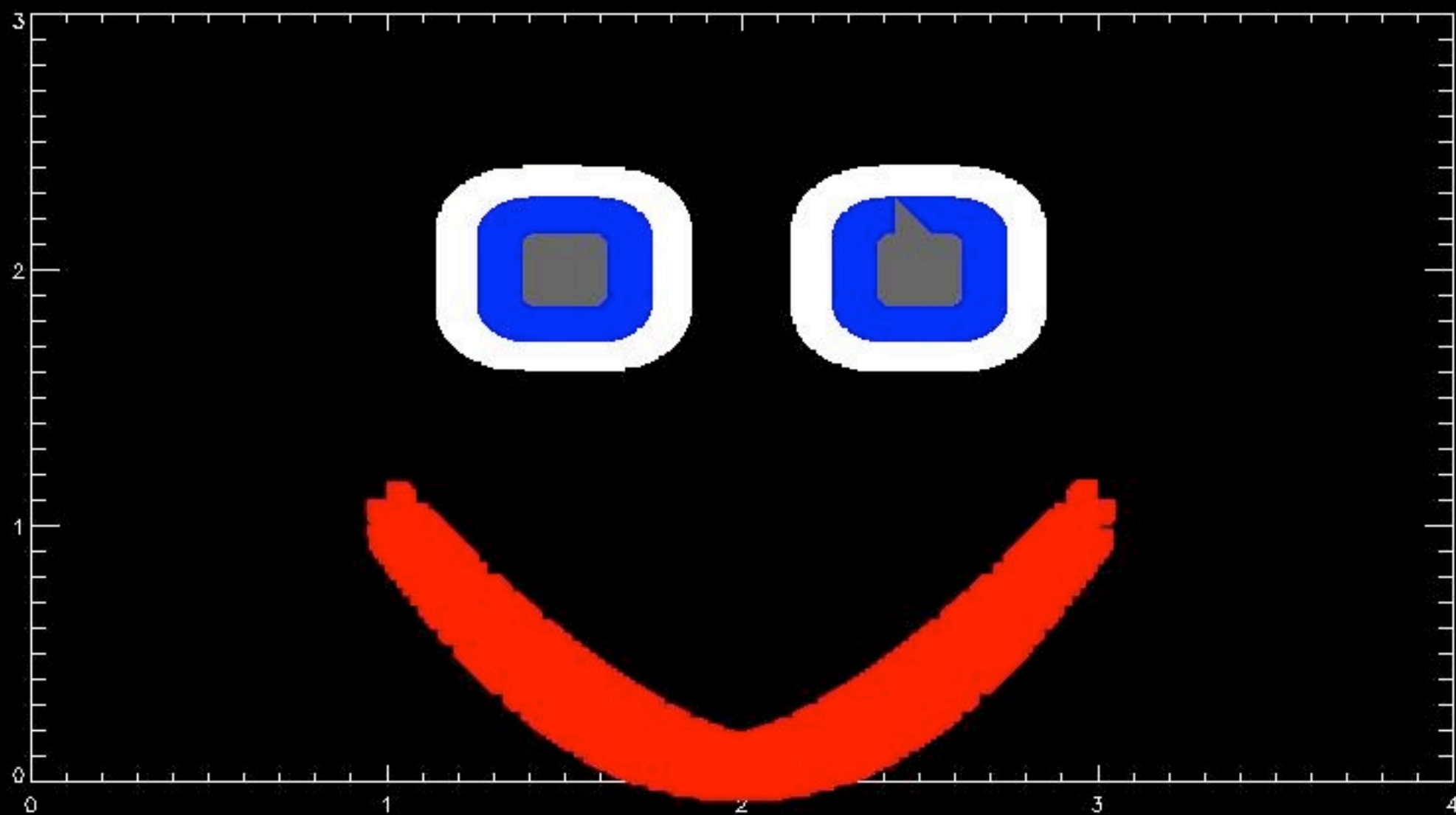
- Debugging is a skill developed over time
- whuduzitdo's are designed to give you that experience
- debugging = you are the compiler

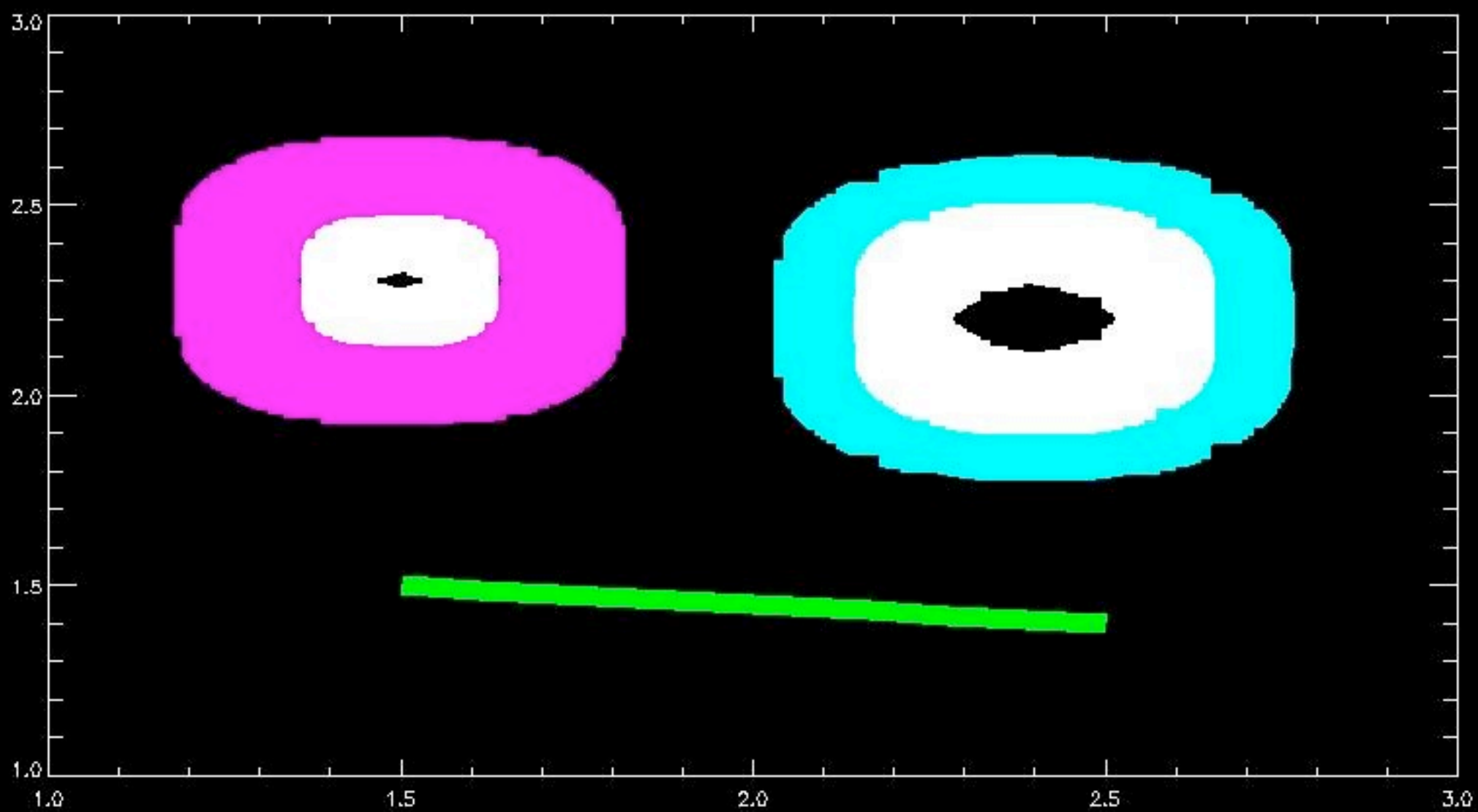
Now for a gallery of eyeballs...

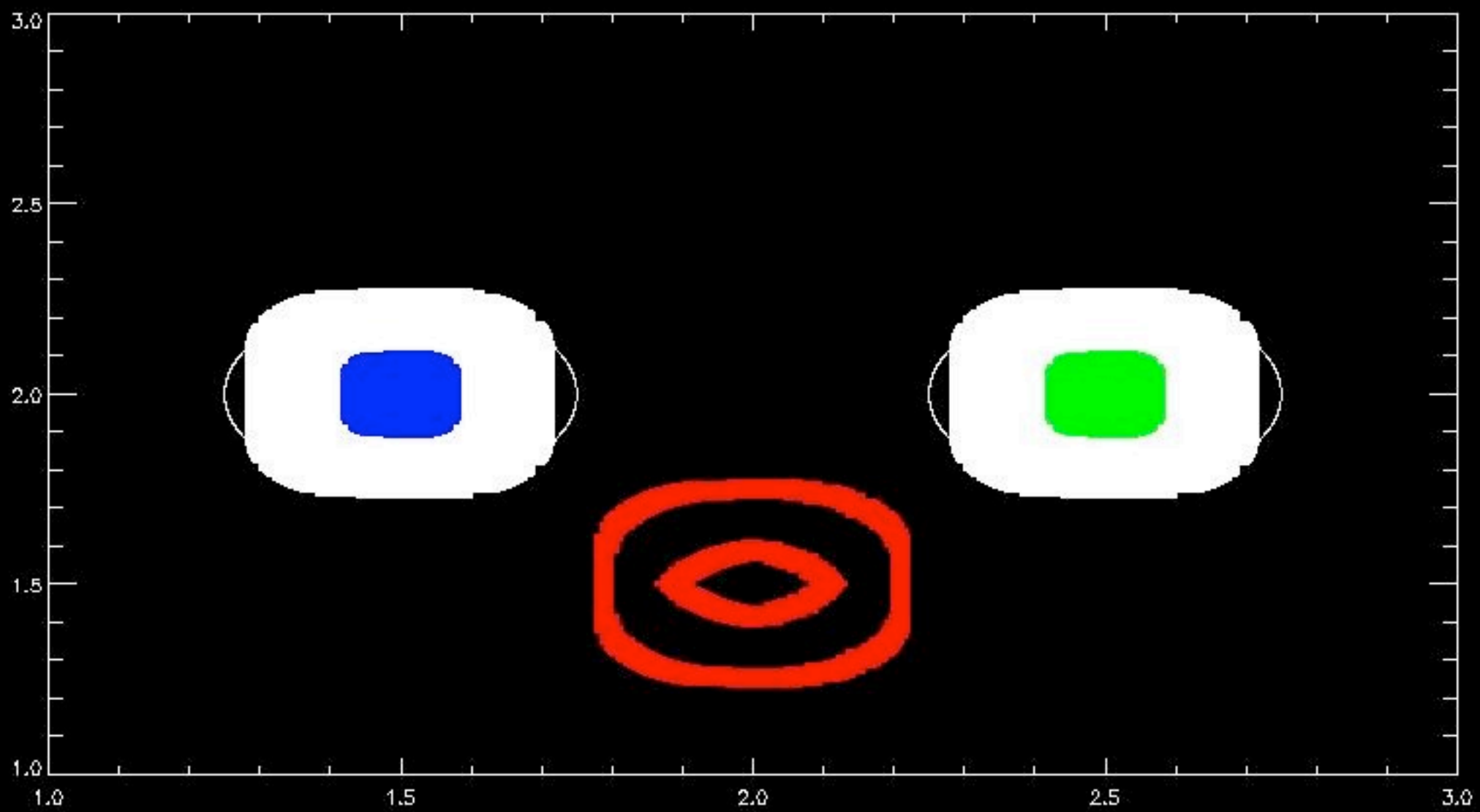


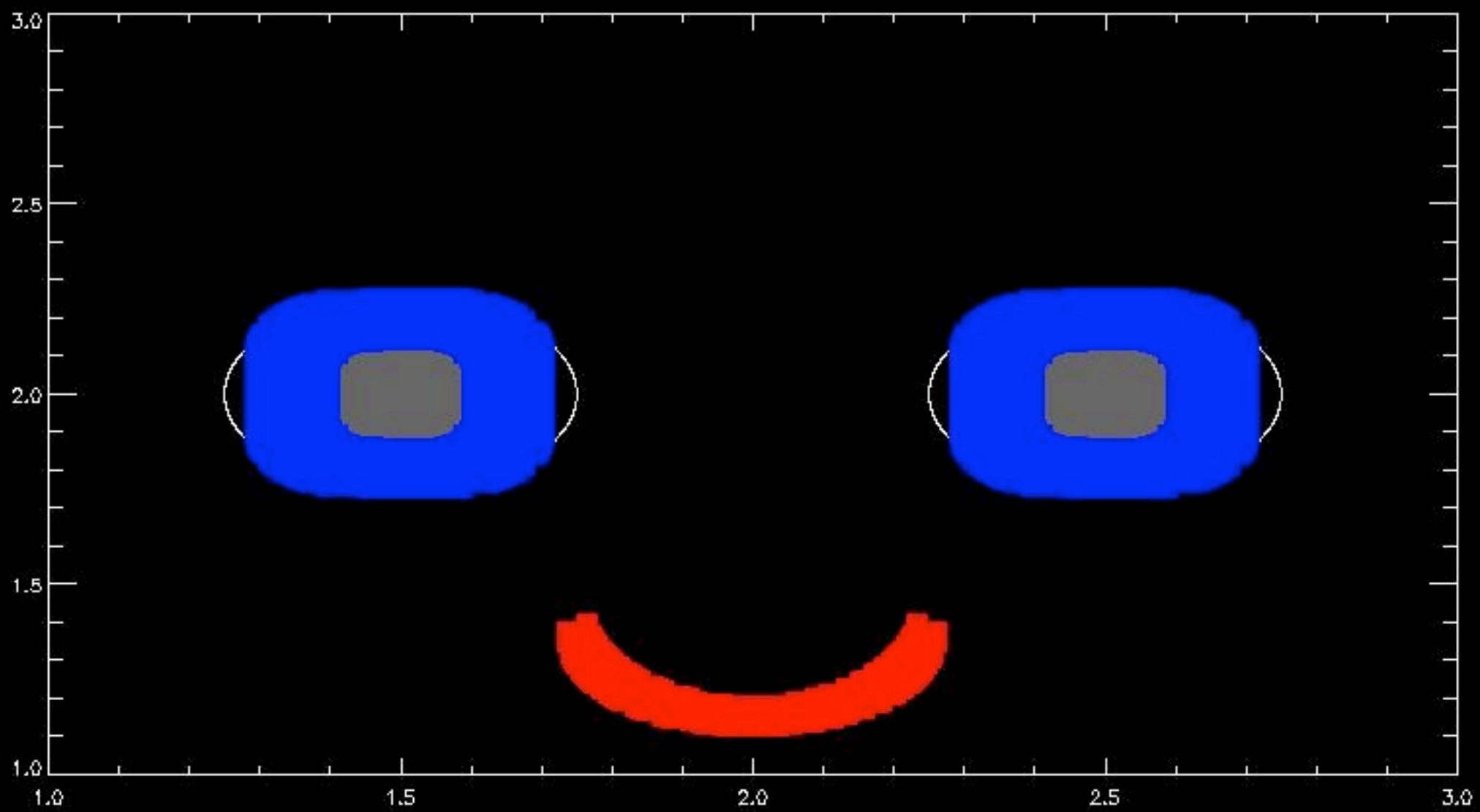


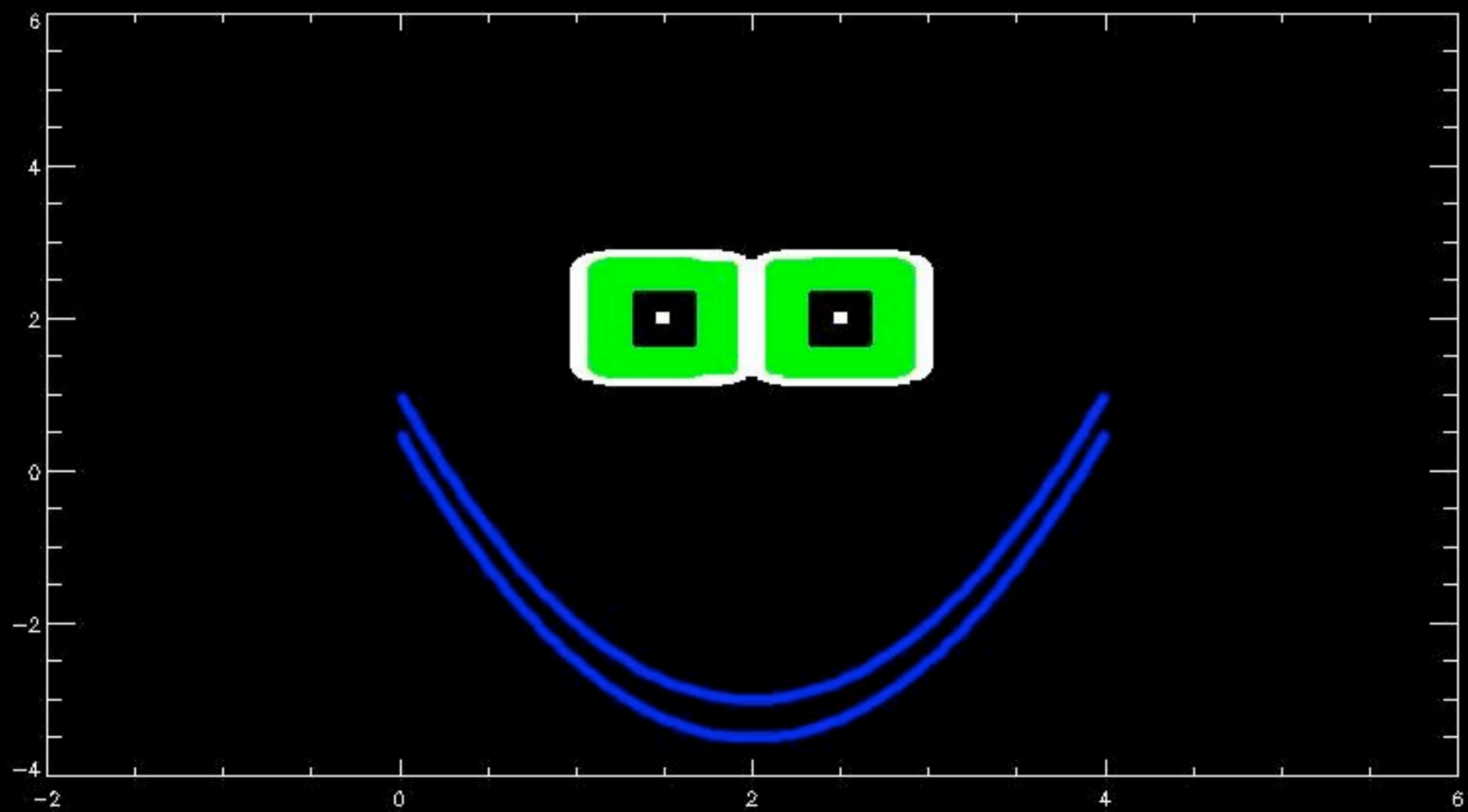


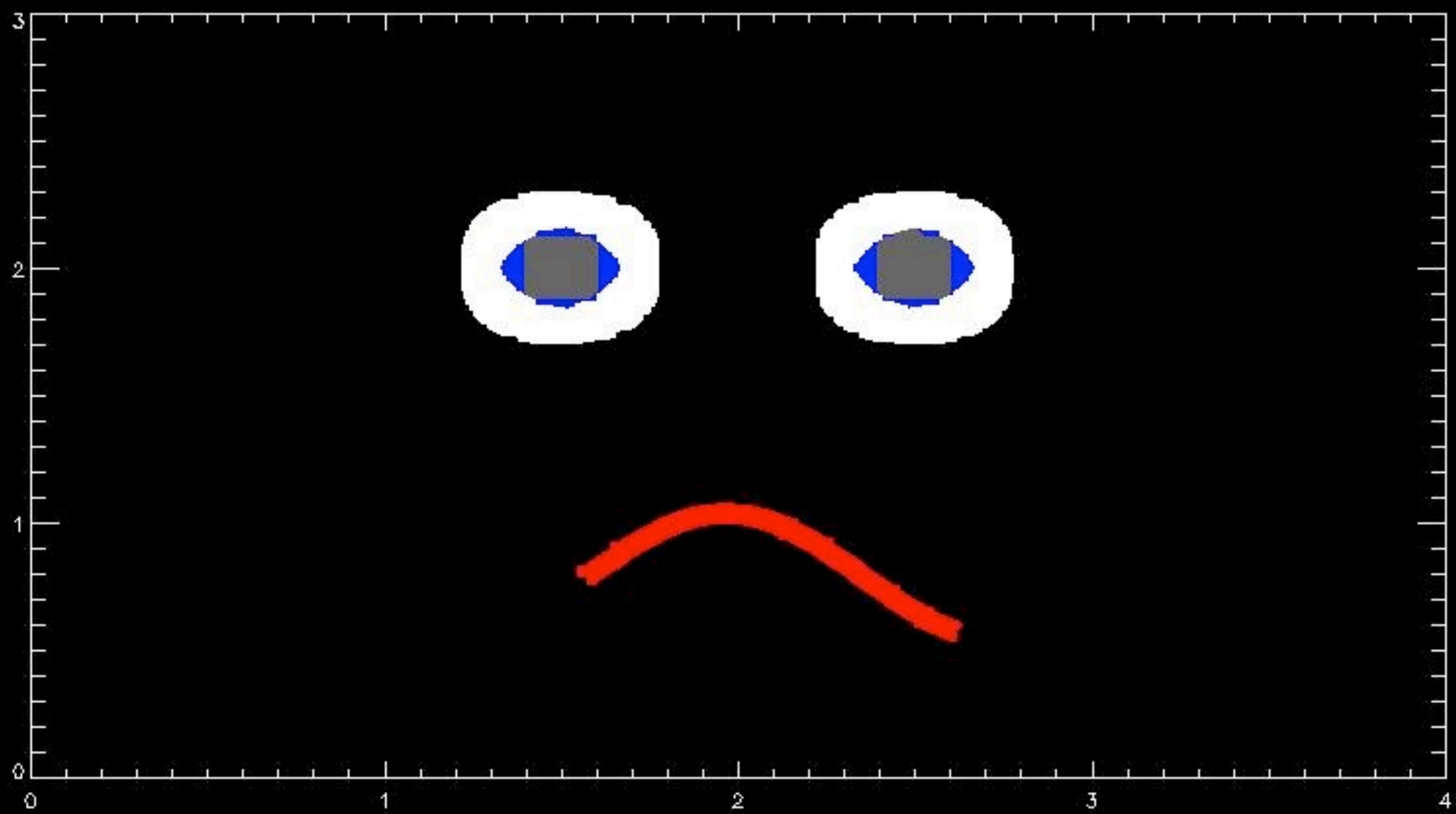


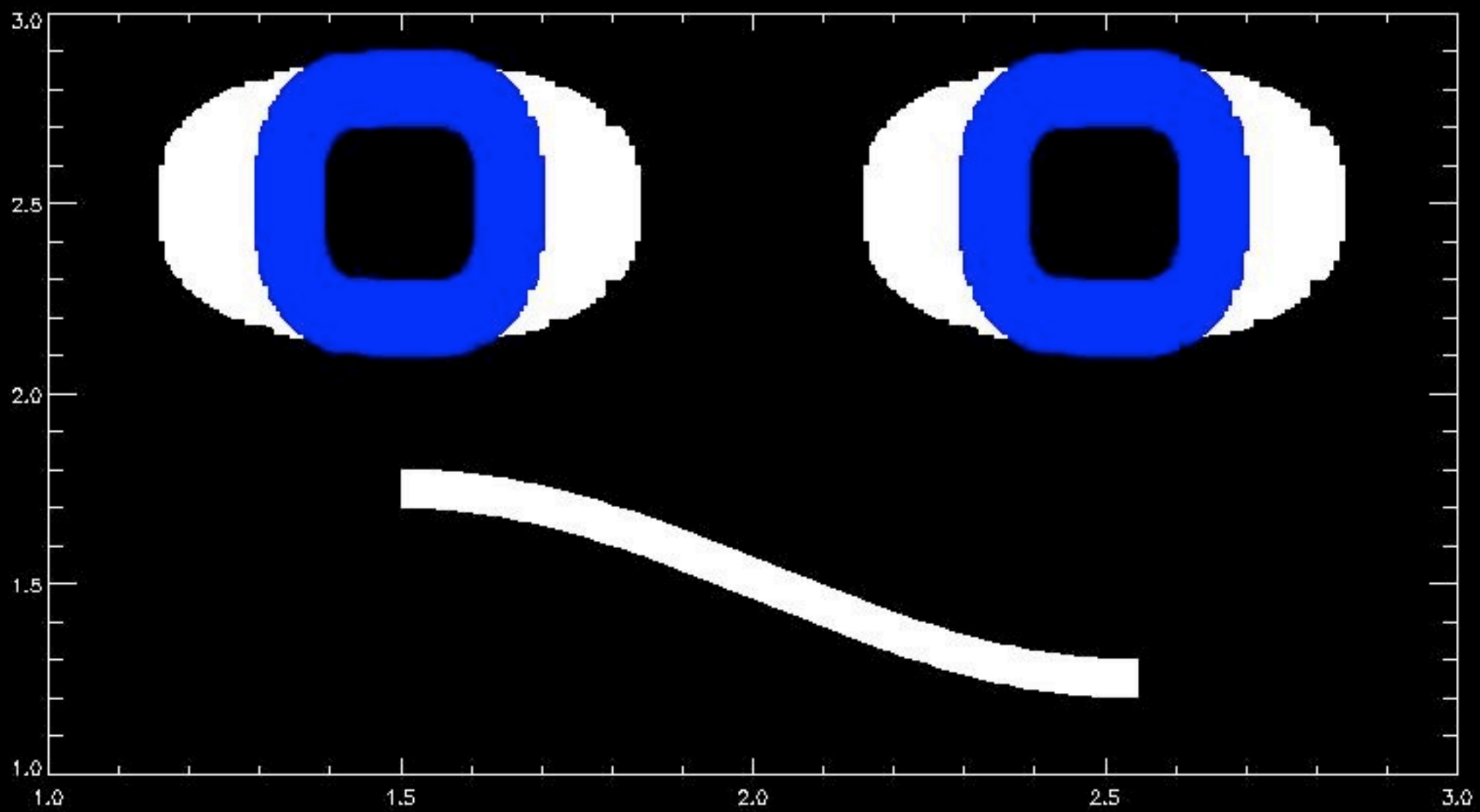


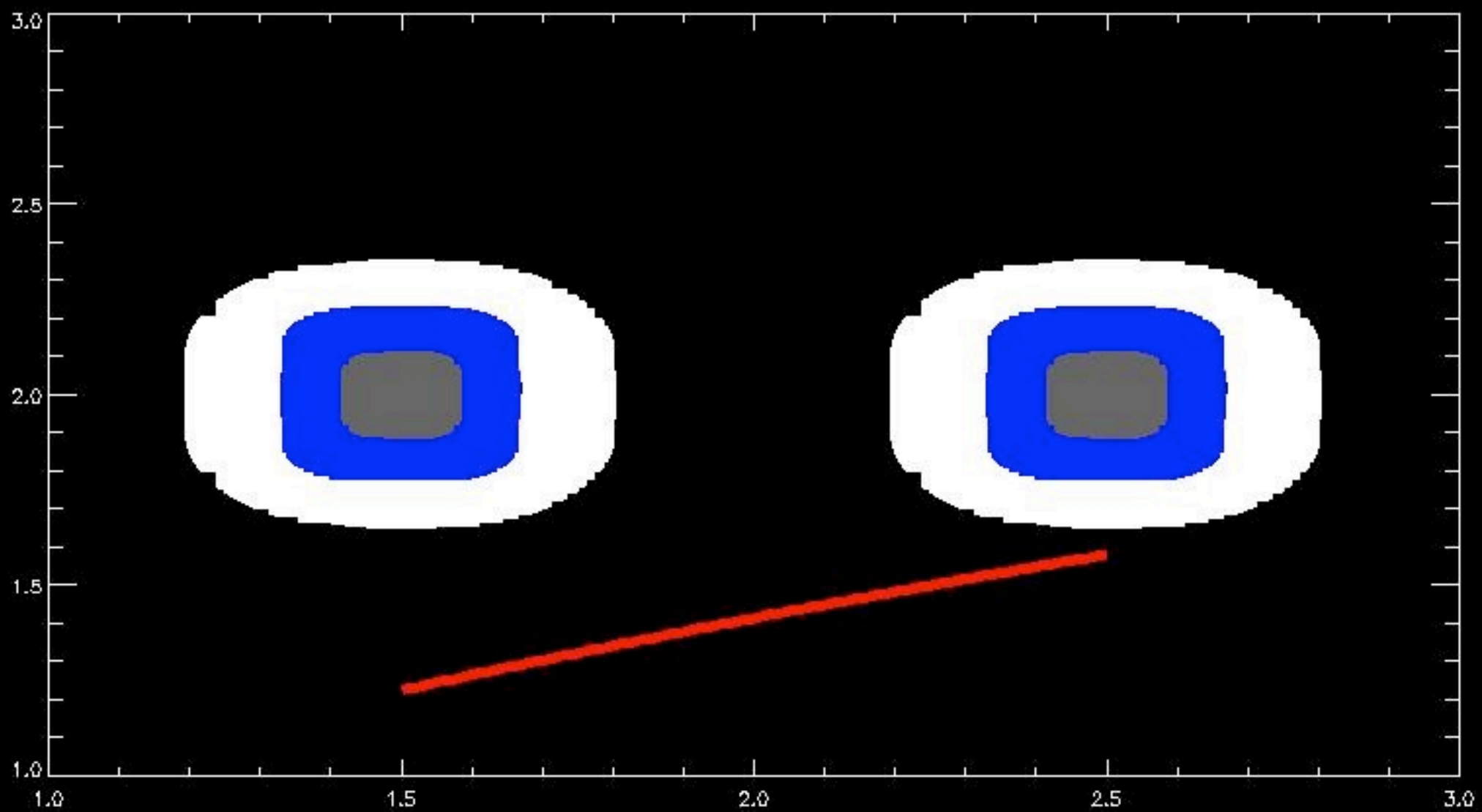












Chapter 14:

Program Design and Development

General Rules

- Start small: Make testable, individual pieces of code
- debugging is much slower than code writing

Top Down Design

- Look at the big picture first (start with a vague outline, with the big bullets written first)

Example

1. Get input data
2. Do computation
3. Output results

Example

1. Get input data

```
get_data,x,y
```

2. Do computation

```
z = compute_z(x,y)
```

3. Output results

```
output_results,z
```

Example

- Fill in individual functions with test stubs:

```
; get_data
; get x and y values
; **TEST STUB**
; TO DO: Fix to get user data from a specified file
; OUTPUT:
; X & Y arrays
pro get_data,x,y
    x=findgen(5)
    y=randomu(seed,5)
end ; get_data
```

- Doesn't actually *read* anything, but outputs data in the right format
 - i.e., does enough for the next step

Example

- `get_data` does just enough for `compute_z` to work

Example

- Overly simplified output

```
; output_results
;   output the results of the computations
; **TEST STUB**
;   TO DO: Fix to create plot & write jpg
; INPUT:
;   z - the result
pro output_results,z
  print,z
end ; output_results
```

- Just enough to see if the prior steps worked (not “pretty” yet)

Example - Outline revisited

1. Get input data `get_data,x,y`
 - Reads reasonable test data
2. Do computation `z = compute_z(x,y)`
 - still not implemented
3. Output results `output_results,z`
 - May be ugly, but does enough to see if `compute_z` works

Example

- Create `compute_z` now
 - you already have a “testing framework” built around it
- Then, iterate: maybe you need more complicated data for `compute_z`?
change `get_data`

Another approach: Top-Down

- Advantages:
 - Big Picture is set up early
 - Can break down into small chunks
 - Good for team development
 - Visualize as “flow charts”

Top-Down

- Frequently utilizes “pseudo-code”
 - pseudo-code is “almost code” that reads more like English
 - it’s code, but you don’t care about syntax
 - you aim for readability
 - pseudocode is usually easy to translate into real code, but easier to read (as a human) than code

Pseudo-Code example

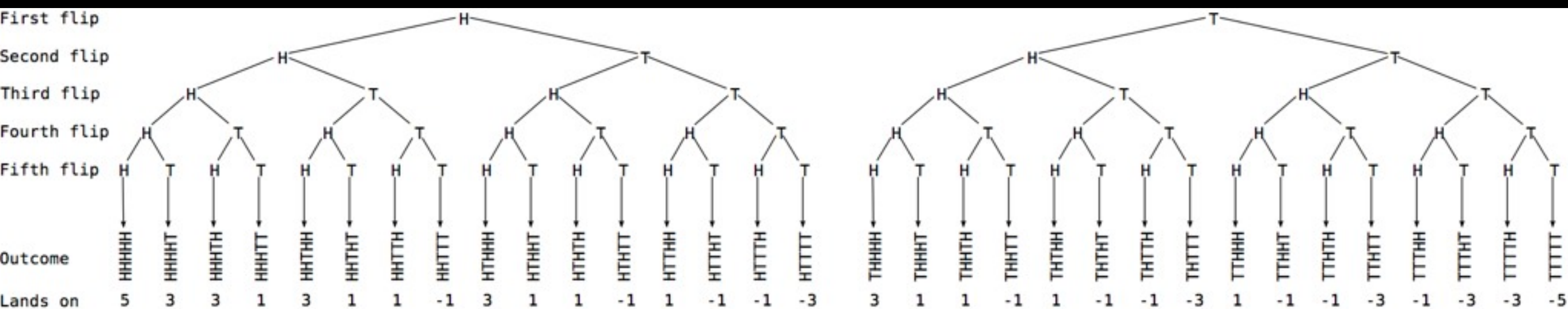
- Open my flux and wavelength files
- Plot flux versus wavelength
- Highlight the spectral line at 1020A
- Fit a gaussian to that line

Bottom-Up approach

- Start with small details
- Test each small step along the way
 - (for small projects, this will end up looking the same as “Top Down”, except you won’t write an outline at the start)

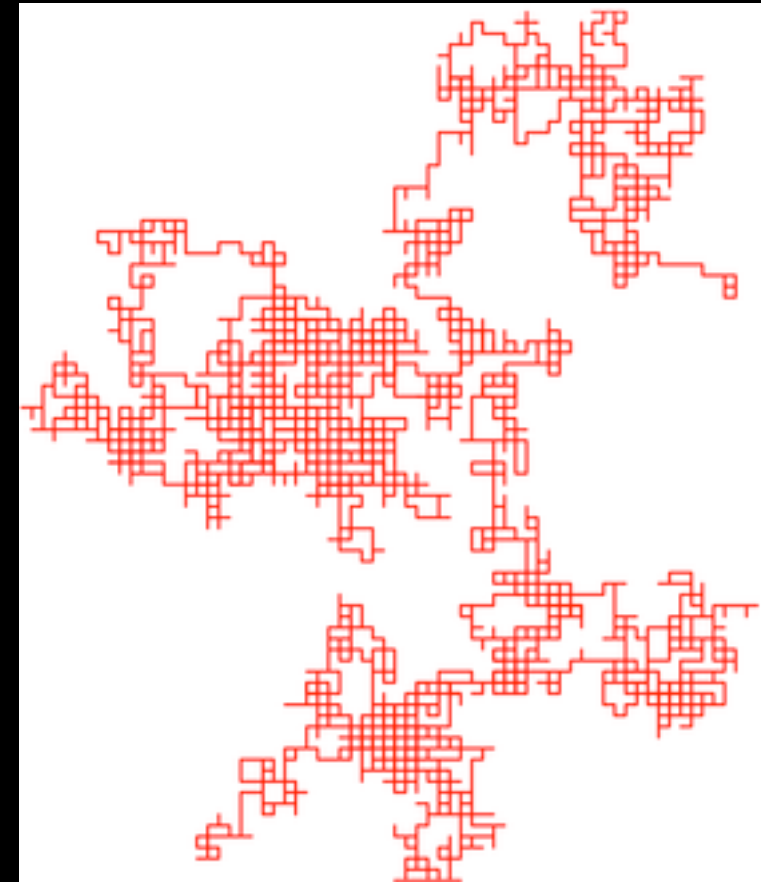
Case Study: Random Walk

- A “random walk” is taking sequential coin flips to decide which direction to move



Random Walk

- Take N steps of some size, where each step is random
- This results in brownian motion (motion of, e.g., air molecules)



Bottom-up

- Start with the simplest component:
 - Take one *random* step
- If motion is restricted to be in one dimension (easiest case), that means there must be equal likelihood to go *forward* and *backward*



What does this do?

```
step = randomu(seed,1) gt 0.5 ? 1 : -1
```

- A) Makes **step** a random variable greater than 0.5
- B) Makes **step** +1 50% of the time and -1 50% of the time
- C) Makes **step** an array of length **seed** with values +1 and -1 randomly distributed
- D) Crashes
- E) None of the above

2D steps

- On a 2 dimensional grid, can take a step in any direction
 - step size is always the same
 - all directions are equally likely



Which is best for determining a random direction?

A) `randomn (seed) * 360`

B) `randomu (seed) * 360`

C) Neither



```
; random step  
; Take a step in a random direction  
  
step_direction = randomu(seed) * !pi * 2  
step_x = cos(step_direction)  
step_y = sin(step_direction)
```

Should random step be...

- A) A procedure
- B) A function
- C) A program
- D) A script
- E) None of the above

Random Step pro

```
; random step
; Take a step in a random direction
; INPUTS:
;   seed : random seed
; OUTPUTS:
;   step_x, step_y: step length in x, y direction

pro random_step, seed, step_x, step_y
    step_angle = randomu(seed) * !pi * 2
    step_x = cos(step_angle)
    step_y = sin(step_angle)
end ; random_step
```


Random step...

- It works, I think....
- How do I test it?
- What aspects could we test?

```
IDL> random_step,seed,dx,dy
IDL> print,dx,dy
      -0.423450      -0.905919
IDL> random_step,seed,dx,dy
IDL> print,dx,dy
      0.867316      -0.497759
IDL> random_step,seed,dx,dy
IDL> print,dx,dy
      0.868664      -0.495402
IDL> random_step,seed,dx,dy
IDL> print,dx,dy
      0.105232      -0.994448
```



Which is a useful test of `random_step`?
(you just called `random_step, seed, dx, dy`
so `dx` and `dy` should be random variables with
some other properties....)

A) `print, abs((dx^2+dy^2)^0.5 - 1.0) lt 1e-7`

B) `print, (dx^2+dy^2)^0.5 eq 1.0`

C) `print, abs(dx + dy) - 1.0 lt 1e-7`

D) `print, dx^2 lt dy^2`

E) None of these

```

In [35]: r = np.random.random(10)
In [36]: angle = r*2*pi
In [37]: x,y=cos(angle),sin(angle)
In [38]: x**2+y**2
Out[38]: array([ 1.,  1.,  1.,  1.,  1.,  1.,  1.,  1.,  1.,  1.])
In [39]: np.set_printoptions(precision=24)
In [40]: x**2+y**2
Out[40]:
array([ 1.,           ,  1.,           ,
        1.,           ,  1.,           ,
        1.,           ,  1.,           ,
        1.0000000000000000000222044605,  1.,           ,
        1.,           ,  1.,           ])
In [41]: np.arcsin(x**2+y**2)
Out[41]:
array([ 1.570796326794896557998982,  1.570796326794896557998982,
        1.570796326794896557998982,  1.570796326794896557998982,
        1.570796326794896557998982,  1.570796326794896557998982,
        nan,  1.570796326794896557998982,
        1.570796326794896557998982,  1.570796326794896557998982])

```

RuntimeWarning: invalid value encountered in arcsin

Next Step ...instepion...

- We made a random step, but we want to random walk
- How many steps should we take?
 - Leave that decision to the user
- How should we take those steps?



Random Walk

You have a `random_step` procedure. What should you use to make a `random_walk` procedure now?
(how many steps are we taking/when do we stop walking?)

- A) `while` loop
- B) `repeat ... until` loop
- C) `foreach` loop
- D) `for` loop

E)



Random Walk

```
; random walk
; Take N steps in independent random directions
; Start somewhere, report where you end up
; INPUTS:
;   xpos,ypos : Starting X,Y
;   nsteps : number of steps
;   seed : starting random seed
;   stepsize : size of steps (defaults to 1)
pro random_walk,xpos,ypos,nsteps

    for stepcount=0,nsteps-1 do begin
        random_step,seed,dx,dy
        xpos += dx
        ypos += dy
    endfor ; steps
end ; random_walk
```

Other improvements?

- What are we really interested in?
 - Each step? The total distance? The path taken? Maybe all of these!
- Need more features!
 - referred to as a “feature request” on the intertubes

Expanding Random Walk

- Make `xpos`, `ypos` arrays instead of scalars
 - can keep track of each step
- Plot the random walk!
 - Obviously. It will look cool.
- Determine the total distance traveled (at each step)

Building Up Code

- Tutorial today will be about adding features and code development
- You should have “Diagnostic Code” (i.e. `print` statements) dispersed throughout
- If you don’t want it to print, “comment it out” (start the line with a `;`)

Chapter 14

- Use Chapter 14 as a reference
- Dewey goes through the whole development process - many of the same ideas we went over in lecture, but with concrete examples throughout
- There are LOTS OF MISTAKES in programming, and Ch 14 shows some

Ch 14 vs Lecture

- Chapter 14 implements the same general idea, but with different approaches
 - I coded things in a different order
 - I chose different variable manipulations
- You can choose either way!

“Refactoring”

- If you want to change the code you’re handed to look more like Dewey’s, go ahead
- When you change code so that the code looks different but it does the same thing, that’s called “refactoring”
 - usually, you do it to “clean up” messy code or remove duplicate code

Brownian Motion Again

Ideally, your code's history
doesn't look like this...



Tutorial 15

- For tutorial 15, we will do Chapter 14
 - With a twist: You will do a “git commit” every 10 minutes
 - In this case, it doesn’t matter if your code works at any given step, just keep committing (which means, SAVING too!)
 - Good practice: Save often
 - Will show your “work flow”

Random Walk Goal

- How does the distance from the starting point change *on average*?
- The book shows you how to do this:
Average the distances of many random walks

Code Golf

- Bad technique, but useful thought exercise:
- Officially, “Code Golf” is trying to accomplish a task using the fewest characters possible.
 - It’s actually kind of dumb.
- BUT, it can be useful to try to accomplish a task in the fewest *commands* possible

“Good” code golf

- Terse code is often easier to parse than verbose code
- “Brevity is the soul of wit.”
- But really, we’re interested in a different brevity - *faster* code is better most of the time
 - But, it is NEVER worth sacrificing “correctness” for speed

Code Optimization

- As a rule, you don't optimize code unless you have to (i.e., unless your code is slow)
- But, I brought up optimization and code golf because the functions in Chapter 14 can be accomplished in probably fewer than 10 lines of code. Kudos* if you can figure out how!

*I am not actually offering food, just props... for now