

Functions

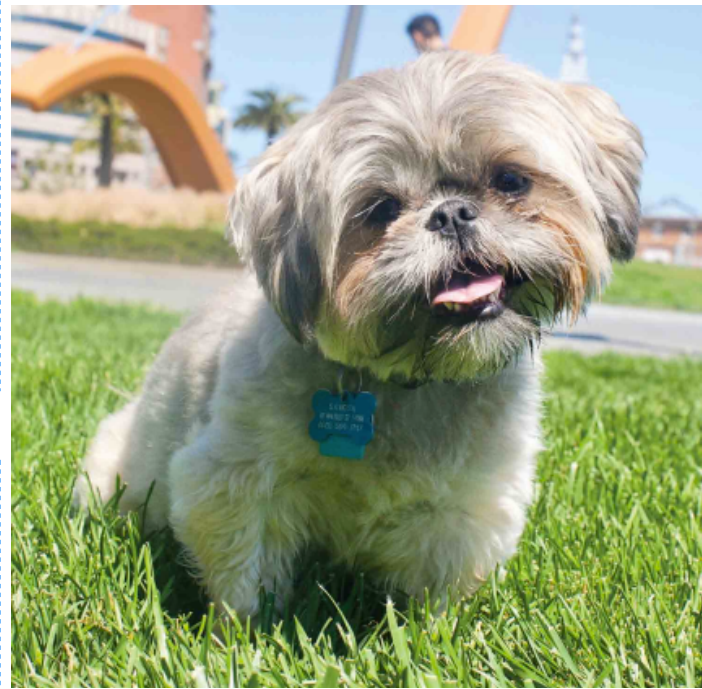
Welcome to CS 61A!

John DeNero [once in google translate](#)
denero@berkeley.edu

Office hours in 781 Soda
(starting next week)

Wed 10am–11am & Thurs 10am–11am

By appointment: denero.org/meet.html



Fastest way to get answers: piazza.com/berkeley/spring2018/cs61a

Contact me & heads of staff: cs61a@berkeley.edu

The 61A Community

44 teaching assistants (TAs), formally known at Berkeley as UGSIs:

- Teach lab & discussion sections
- Hold drop-in office hours
- Lots of other stuff: develop assignments, grade exams, etc.

50+ mentors:

- Teach mentoring sections
- Hold drop-in office hours
- Lots of other stuff: homework parties, mastery sections, etc.

250+ academic interns help answer individual questions & check your progress

1,300+ fellow students make CS 61A unique

Parts of the Course

Lecture: Videos posted to `cs61a.org` before each live lecture

Lab section: The most important part of this course (*next week*)

Discussion section: The most important part of this course (*this week*)

Staff office hours: The most important part of this course (*next week*)

Online textbook: `http://composingprograms.com`

Weekly homework assignments, three exams, & four programming projects

Lots of optional special events to help you complete all this work

An Introduction to Computer Science

What is Computer Science?

The study of [What problems can be solved using computation,
How to solve those problems, and
What techniques lead to effective solutions]

Systems
Artificial Intelligence
Graphics
Security
Networking
Programming Languages
Theory
Scientific Computing
...

[Decision Making
Robotics
Natural Language Processing
...]


[Answering Questions
Translation
...]

Prof DeNero's field

one common enemy: complexity

What is This Course About?

A course about managing complexity

Mastering abstraction  weapon

Programming paradigms

An introduction to programming

Full understanding of Python fundamentals

Combining multiple ideas in large projects

How computers interpret programming languages

Different types of languages: Scheme & SQL

A challenging course that will demand a lot of you



Alternatives to CS 61A

CS 10: The Beauty and Joy of Computing

Designed for students without prior experience

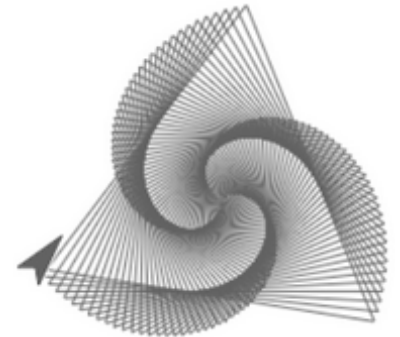
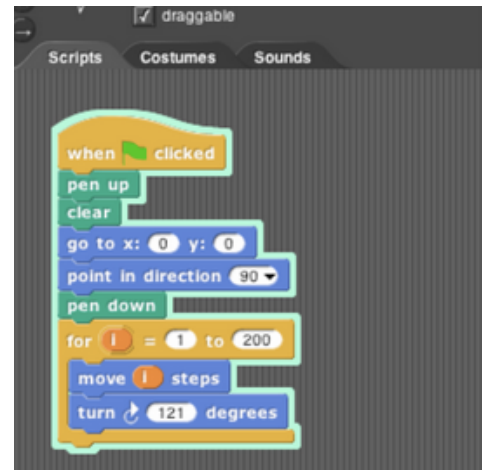
A programming environment created by Berkeley,
now used in courses around the world and online

An introduction to fundamentals (& Python)
that sets students up for success in CS 61A

Spring 2018: Dan Garcia

20+ person waitlist

More info: <http://cs10.org/sp18/>



Data Science 8: Foundations of Data Science

Fundamentals of computing, statistical inference, & machine learning applied to real-world data sets

More statistics than computer science

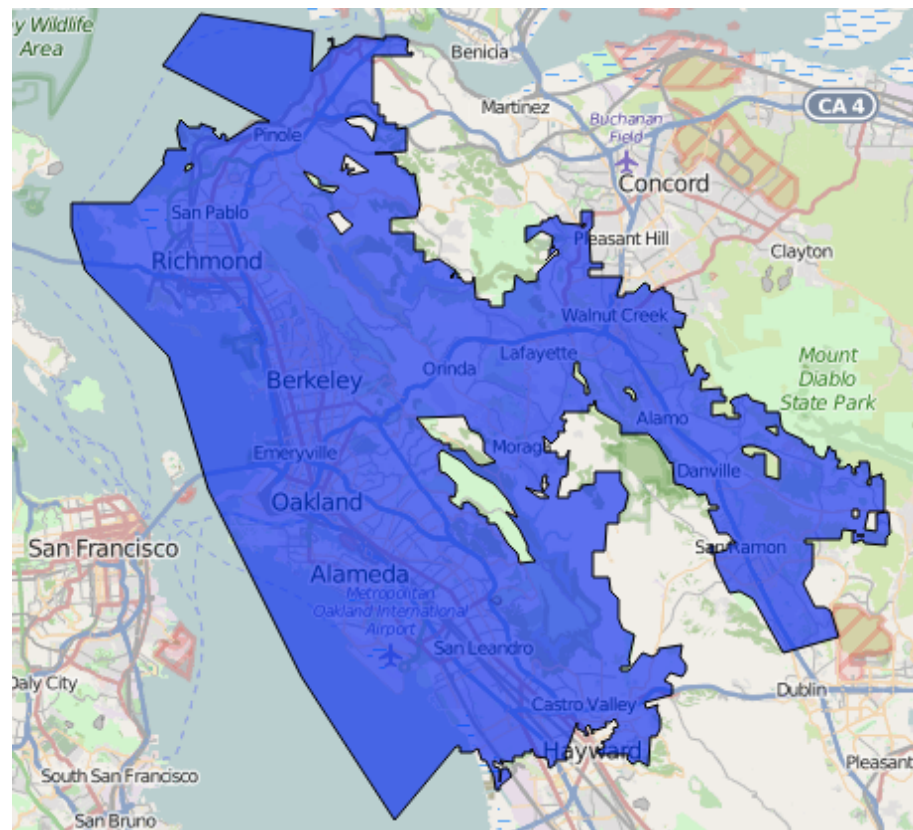
Great programming practice for CS 61A

Cross-listed as CS C8, Stat C8, & Info C8

Spring 2018: Ani Adhikari

100+ person waitlist

More info: <http://data8.org/sp18>



Course Policies

Learning Community Course Staff

Details...

<http://cs61a.org/articles/about.html>

Collaboration

Asking questions is highly encouraged

- Discuss everything with each other; learn from your fellow students!
- Some projects can be completed with a partner
- Choose a partner from your discussion section

The limits of collaboration

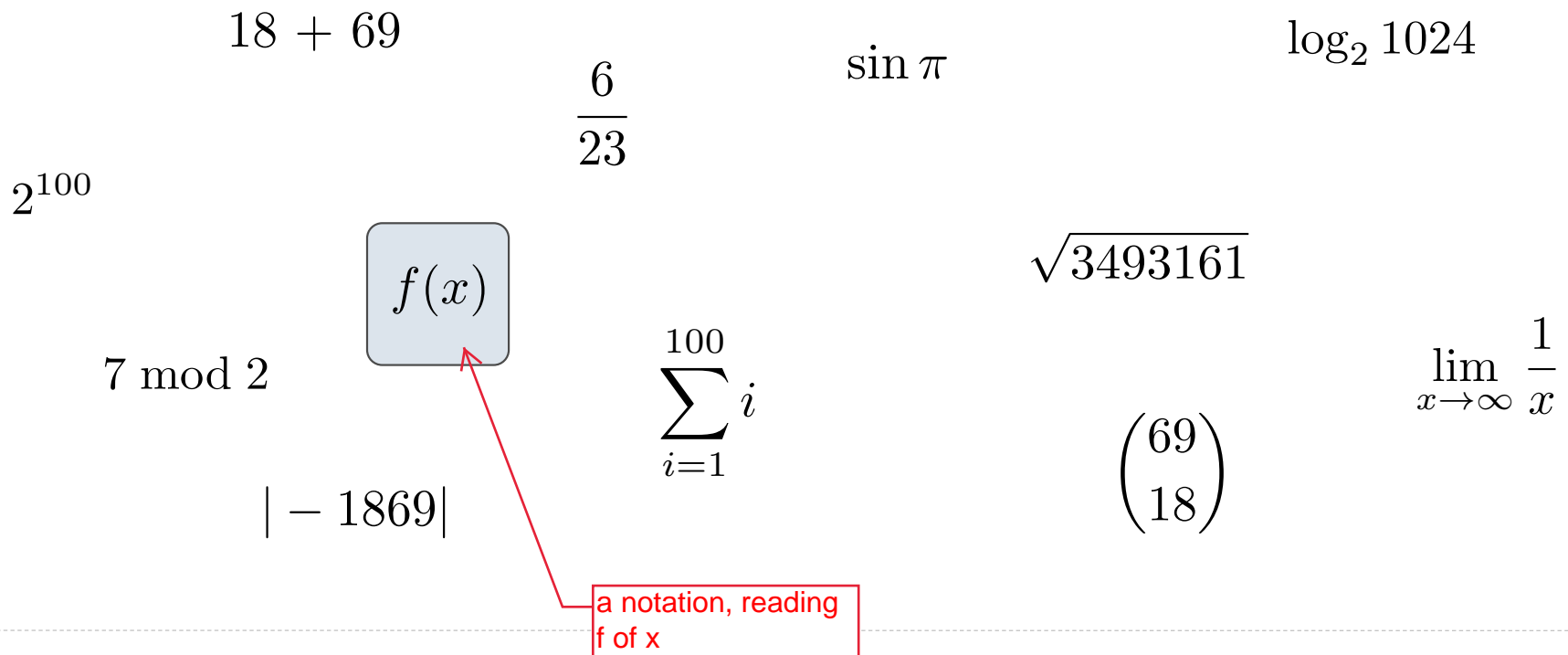
- One simple rule: Don't share your code, except with your project partner
- Copying project solutions causes people to fail the course
- We really do catch people who violate the rules, because...
 - We also know how to search the web for solutions
 - We use computers to check your work

Build good habits now

Expressions

Types of expressions

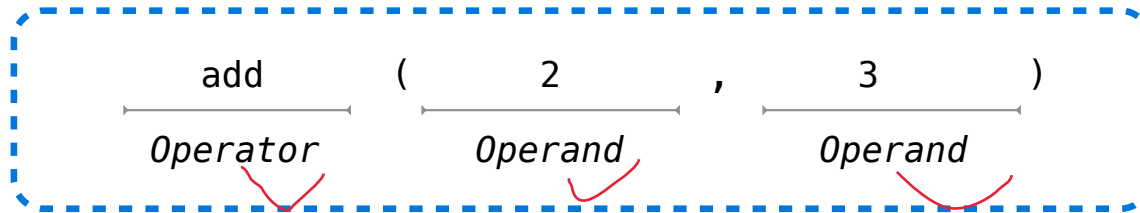
An expression describes a computation and evaluates to a value



Call Expressions in Python

All expressions can use function call notation
(Demo)

Anatomy of a Call Expression



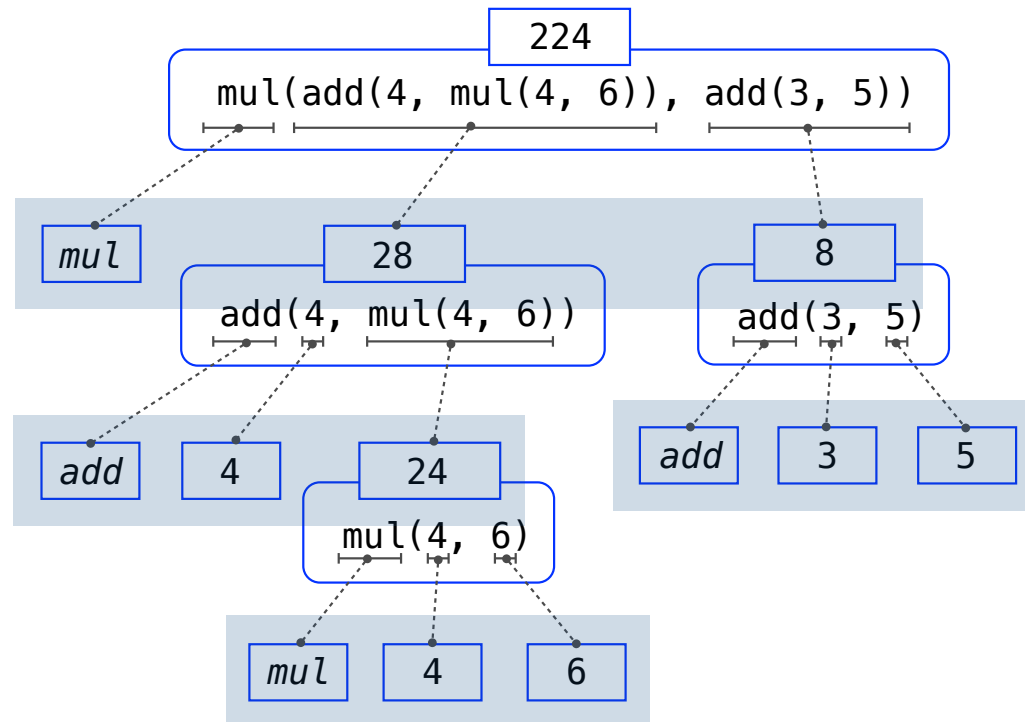
Operators and operands are also expressions

So they evaluate to values

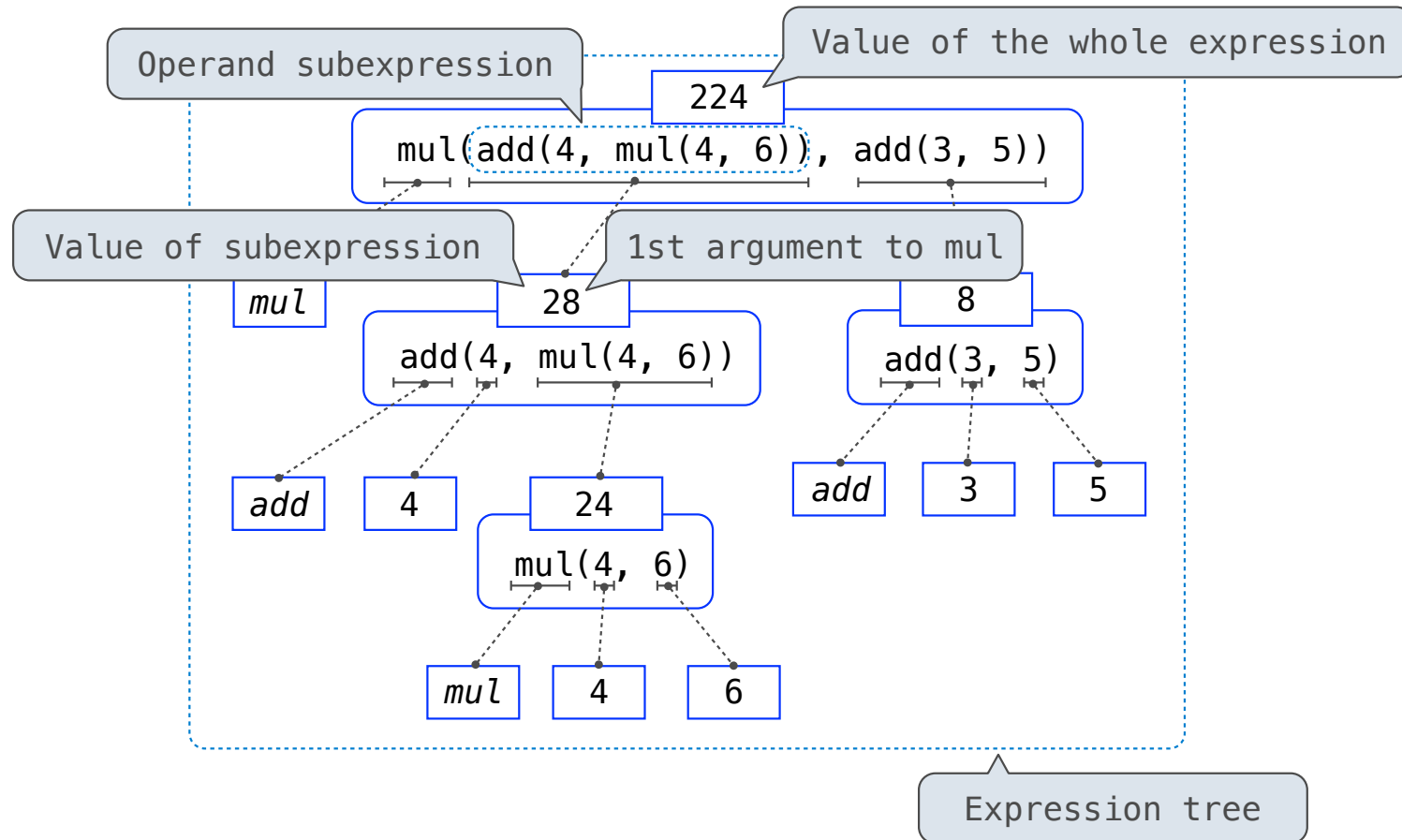
Evaluation procedure for call expressions:

1. Evaluate the operator and then the operand subexpressions
2. **Apply** the **function** that is the value of the operator subexpression to the **arguments** that are the values of the operand subexpression

Evaluating Nested Expressions



Evaluating Nested Expressions in the right order



Functions, Values, Objects, Interpreters, and Data

(Demo)

class set