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# CMSC 115 Reading Guide

Please enter your responses in red.

## Chapter 2

## Section 2.3 Plotting data with PyLab Read

1. What is a *list* in python? A list in python is a sequence of objects. They are denoted with square brackets, and individual elements in a list are separated by commas.
2. What are the main arguments sent to the pylab.plot() function? What does it do? The main arguments sent to the pylab.plot() function are x and y values, and a format string. This function plots the x and y values onto an x,y plot.

## Section 2.4 Minimal Universal Computing Read

This section is an abstract detour into a sub area of computer science as a *science* – that is, the science (math, actually) of what is *computable.* Read it for interest, but it isn’t likely to make much difference in your everyday programming life for many years…

1. What is the main point of this section? What is the minimum needed for “universal computation”? The main point of this section is that all programming could be written with just 5 instructions to the computer using assembly languages, and that selection and repetition are two core parts of programming.
2. Are you surprised by how few statements are needed to be able to do *anything*? I am not entirely surprised by how few statements are needed to be able to do anything, as I’ve watched several videos and even done a little myself in assembly in trying to make a very small sized program.