

# Functions

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## Welcome to CS 61A!

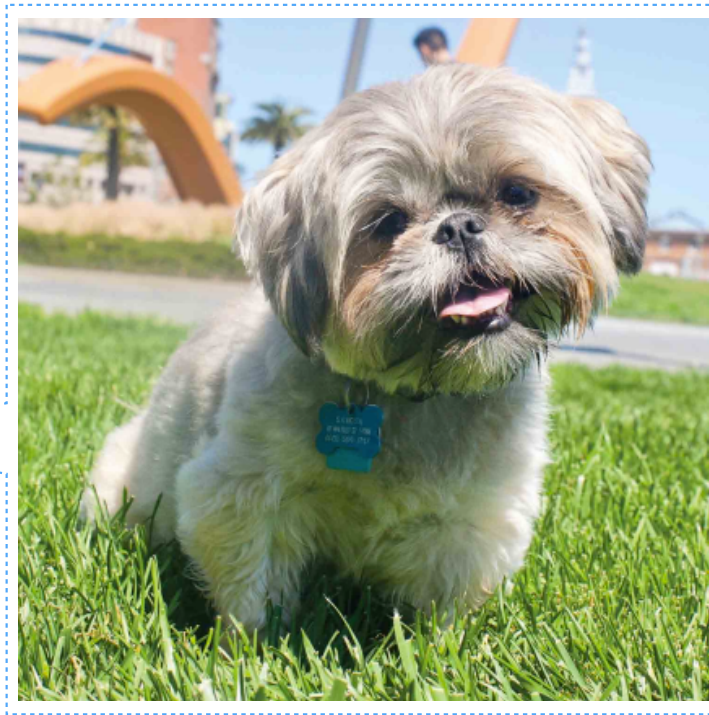
John DeNero

[denero@berkeley.edu](mailto:denero@berkeley.edu)

Office hours in 781 Soda  
(starting next week)

Wed 10am–11am & Thurs 10am–11am

By appointment: [denero.org/meet.html](http://denero.org/meet.html)



Fastest way to get answers: [piazza.com/berkeley/spring2018/cs61a](http://piazza.com/berkeley/spring2018/cs61a)

Contact me & heads of staff: [cs61a@berkeley.edu](mailto:cs61a@berkeley.edu)

## The 61A Community

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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

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**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`

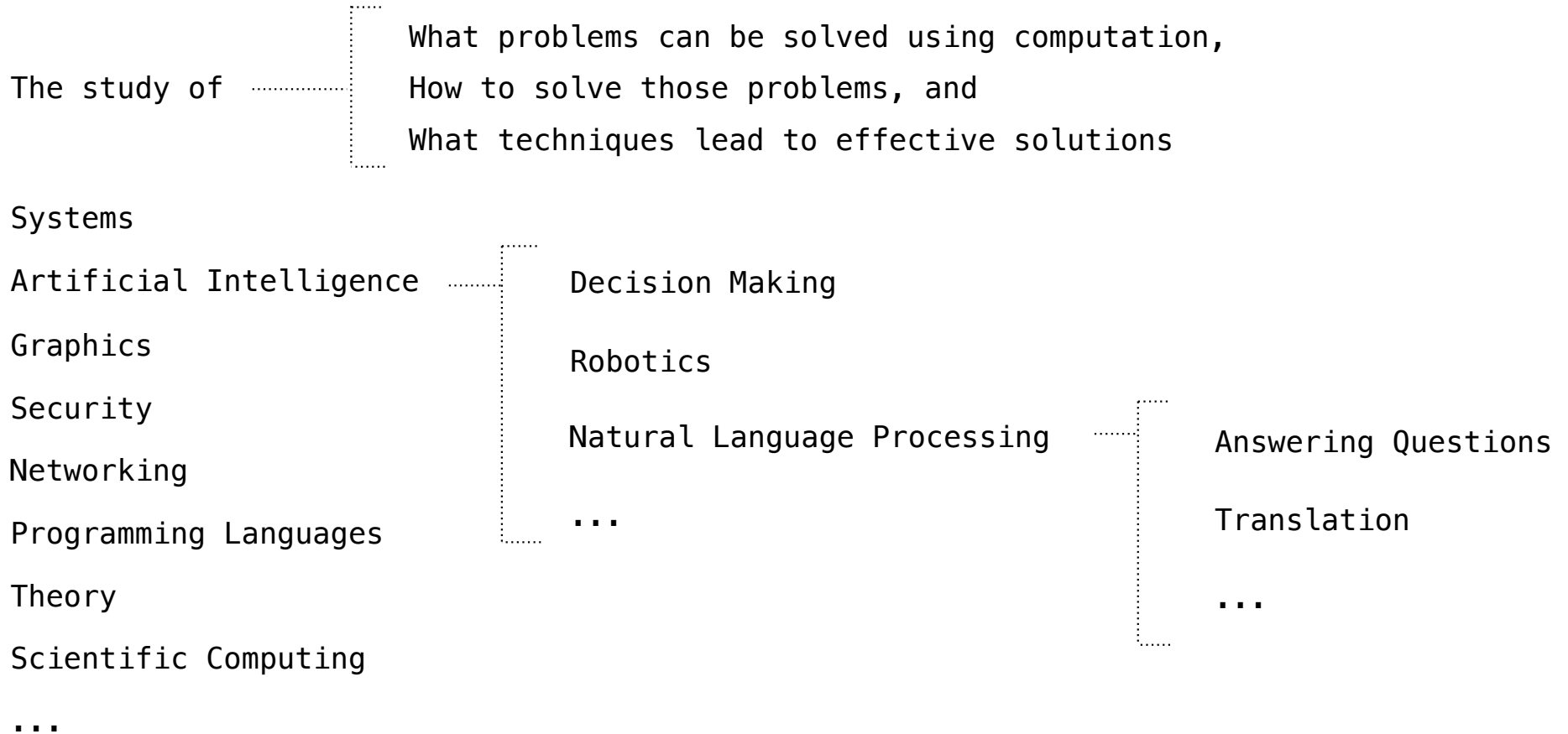
Weekly homework assignments, three exams, & four programming projects

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

# An Introduction to Computer Science

## What is Computer Science?

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## What is This Course About?

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A course about managing complexity

Mastering abstraction you take a complex system, but think of it as one whole thing - give it a name and don't worry about all of its details

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

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Designed for students without prior experience

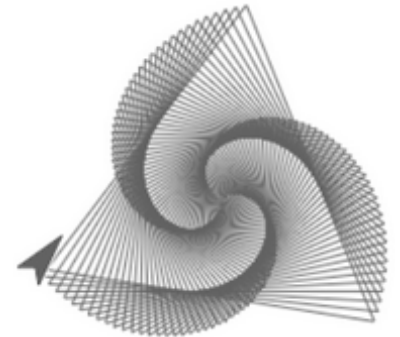
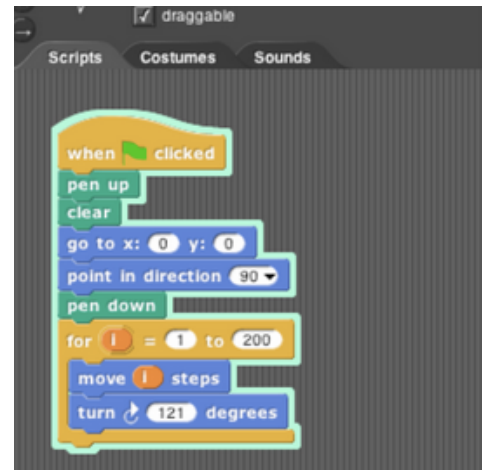
A programming environment created by Berkeley,  
now used in courses around the world and online

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

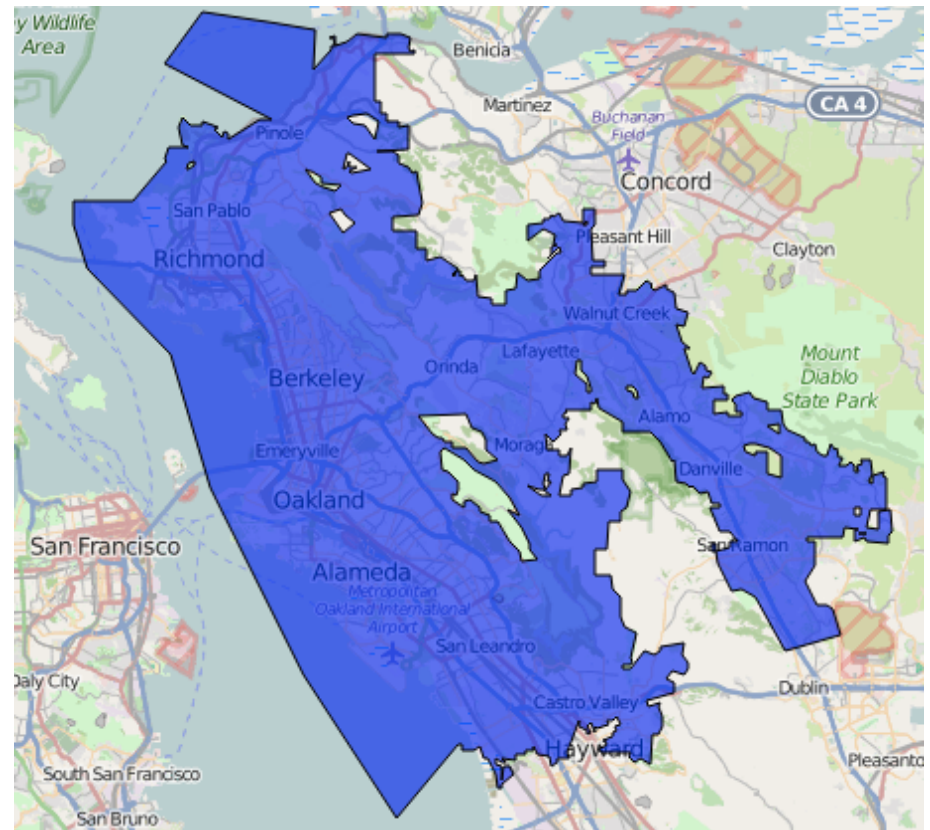
Great programming practice for CS 61A

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

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### **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

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An expression describes a computation and evaluates to a value

$$18 + 69$$

$$\frac{6}{23}$$

$$\sin \pi$$

$$\log_2 1024$$

$$2^{100}$$

$$f(x)$$

$$\sqrt{3493161}$$

$$7 \bmod 2$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{100} i$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x}$$

$$|-1869|$$

$$\binom{69}{18}$$

## Call Expressions in Python

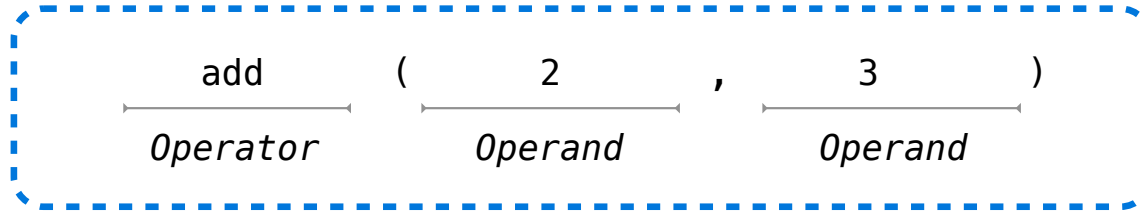
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All expressions can use function call notation  
(Demo)



## Anatomy of a Call Expression

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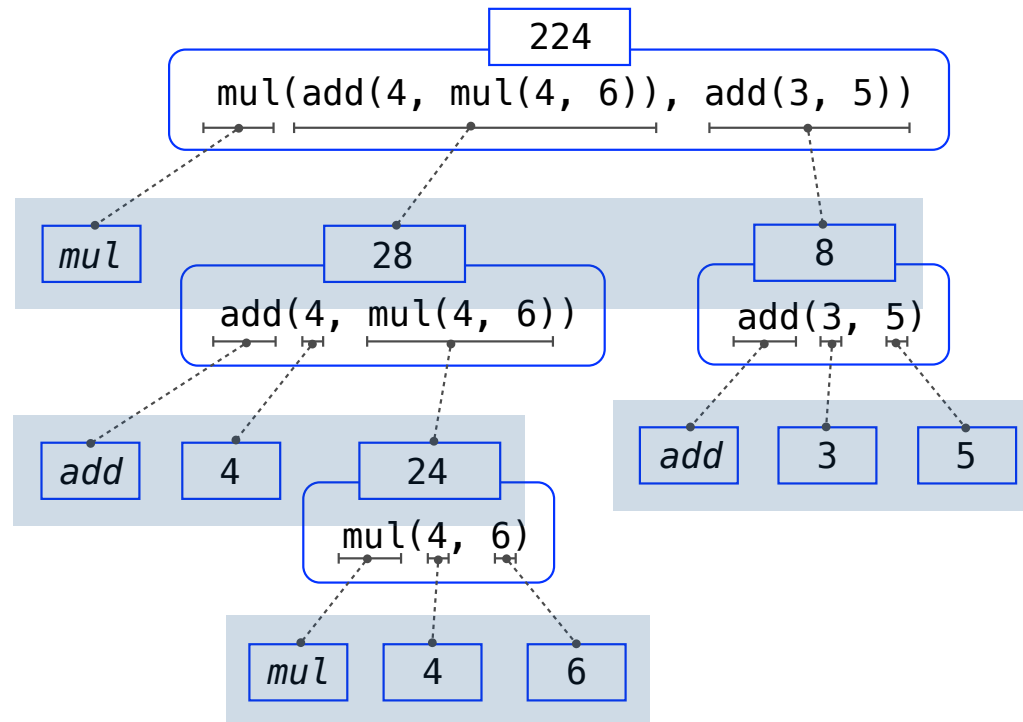
Operators and operands are also expressions

So they evaluate to values

### Evaluation procedure for call expressions:

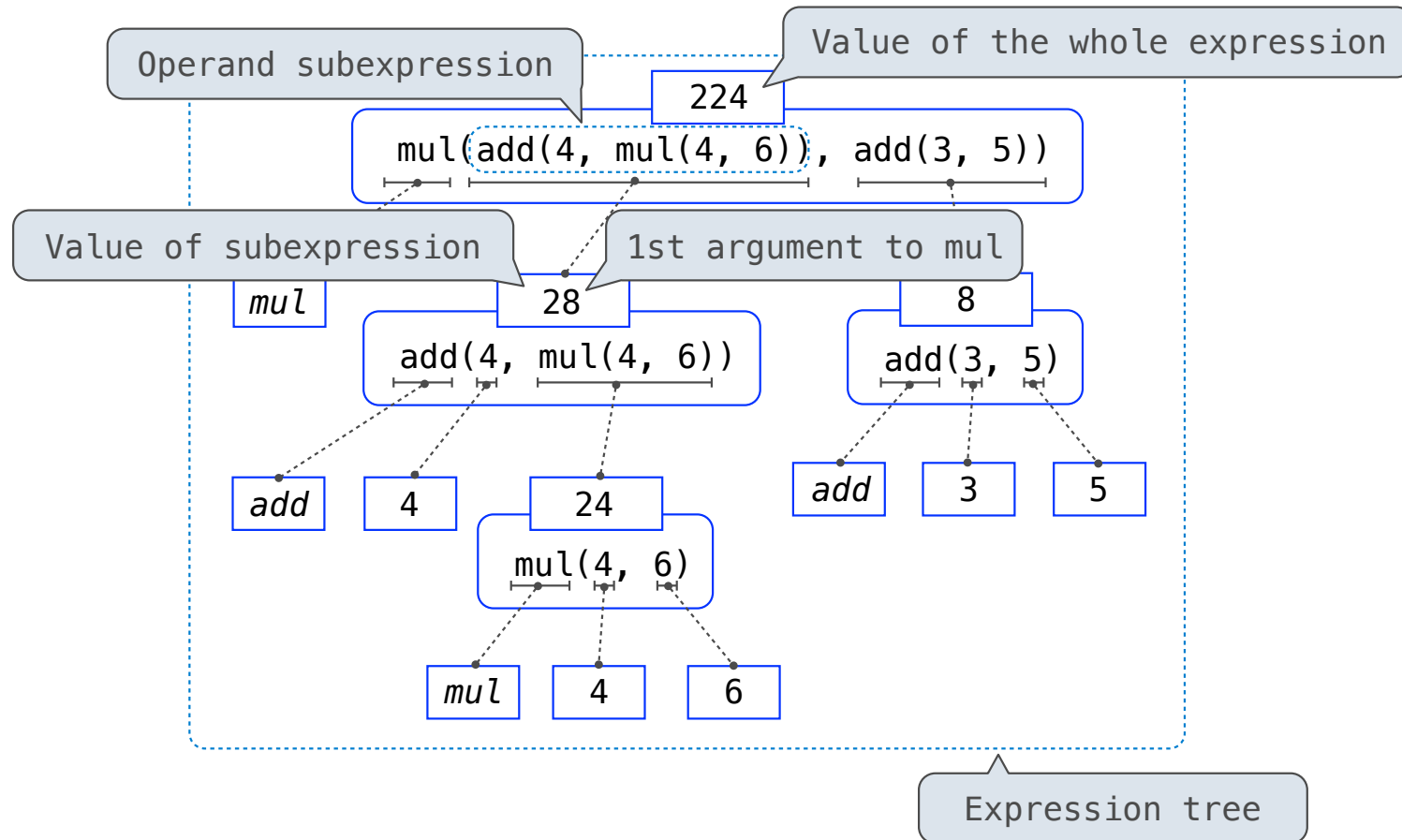
1. Evaluate the operator and then the operand subexpressions
2. **Apply** the **function** that is the value of the operator subexpression to the **arguments** that are the values of the operand subexpression

## Evaluating Nested Expressions



expression tree

## Evaluating Nested Expressions



# Functions, Values, Objects, Interpreters, and Data

(Demo)