Introduction to Programming for Public Policy Week 2

Eric Potash

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Introduction to Python

What is a Programming language?

Assembly

- The computer's CPU understands assembly language
- TODO: show what assembly looks like
- Some people program in assembly but it's very hard

Programming languages

- People created "higher level" programming languages to make our (programmers') lives easier
  - Stata, SAS, SPSS
  - R
  - Python
  - Java
  - C, C++

Interpretted vs Compiled

Language myths

Why Python?

Python

Interactive Interpretter

- much like the command line

```
$ python
>>> x = 1
>>> x = 2
>>> f(3, 4)
print(2)
def adsf(x):
    return 123
```

More Python