

Why Does My Computer Do That? Intro to Coding with Python– Intro to Python

Dr. Ab Mosca (they/them)

Plan for Today

- Intro to Python programming language
- Intro to pair programming
- Intro to repl.it

Recap

What do you remember
from Friday's class?

Recap: the good news

- “High level” programming languages like Python mean we don’t have to write in “low level” binary
- Instead, we write statements like:

```
print("hello")
```

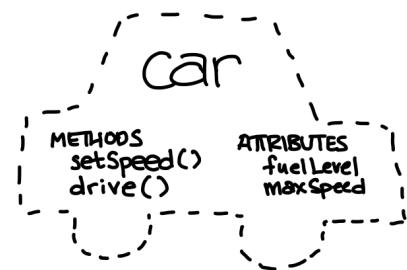


multi-paradigm
interpreted language
with dynamic typing
and automatic memory management

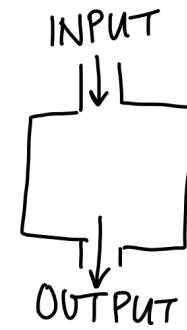


multi-paradigm
interpreted language
with dynamic typing

and automatic memory management



object-oriented



functional



imperative



declarative



multi-paradigm
interpreted language
with dynamic typing
and automatic memory management

Quick digression

	COMPILER	INTERPRETER
What it takes in:		
What it returns:		
Relative speed:		
Memory usage:		
Work is done:		
Reports errors:		
Example language:	 Java	 python™



multi-paradigm
interpreted language
with dynamic typing
and automatic memory management



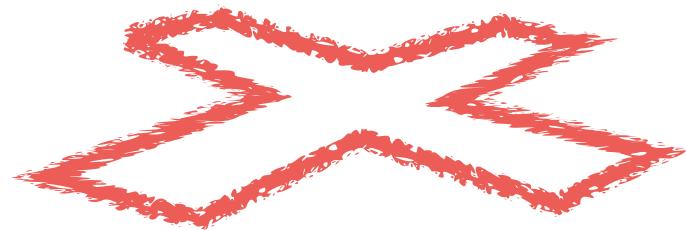
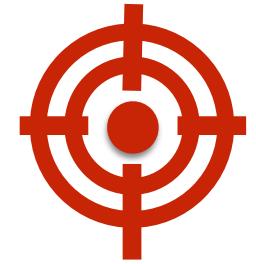
more about this
a bit later



Core Concepts to Get Us Started

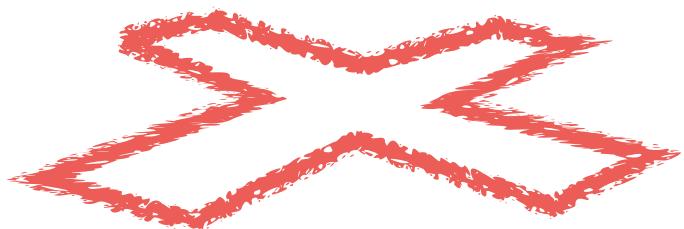
Pair Programming

The programming process



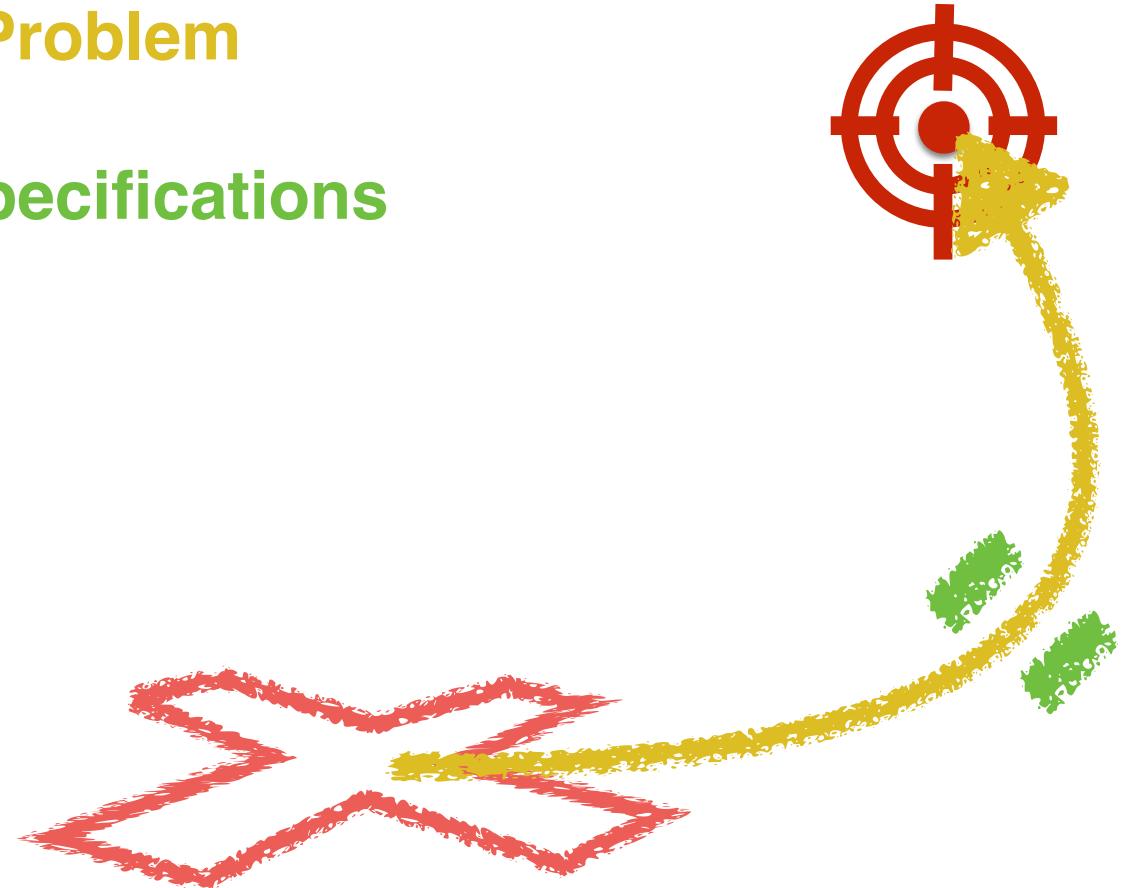
The programming process (idealized)

- Analyze the **Problem**



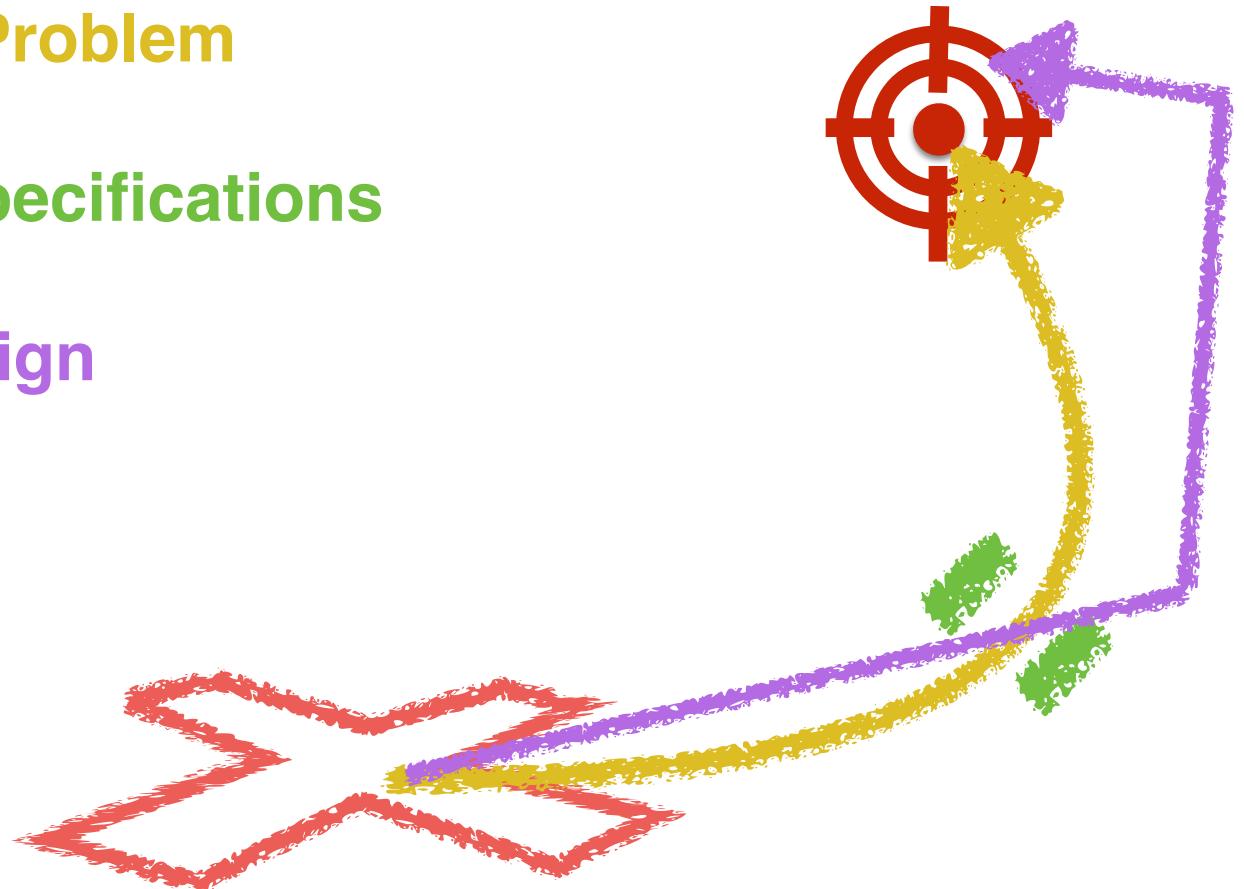
The programming process (idealized)

- Analyze the **Problem**
- Determine **Specifications**



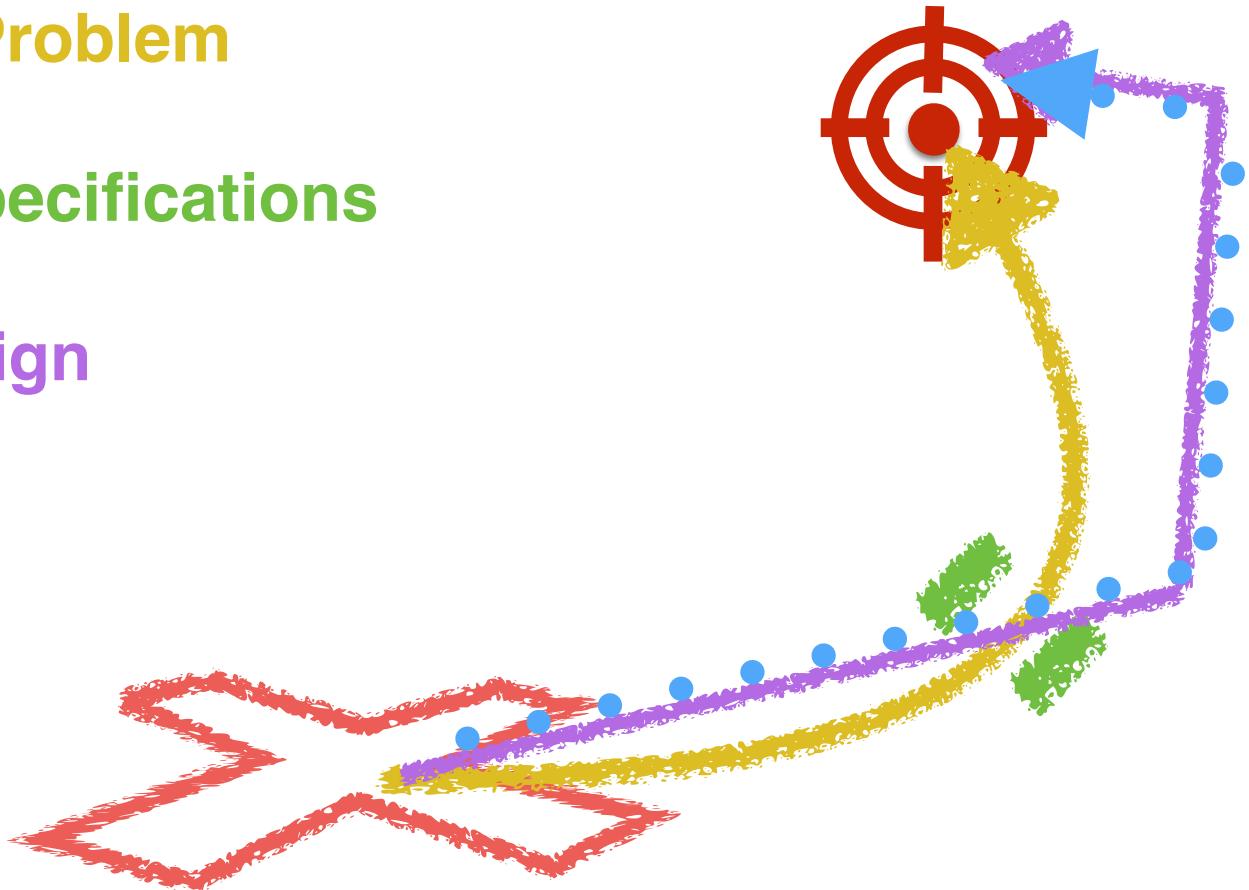
The programming process (idealized)

- Analyze the **Problem**
- Determine **Specifications**
- Create a **Design**



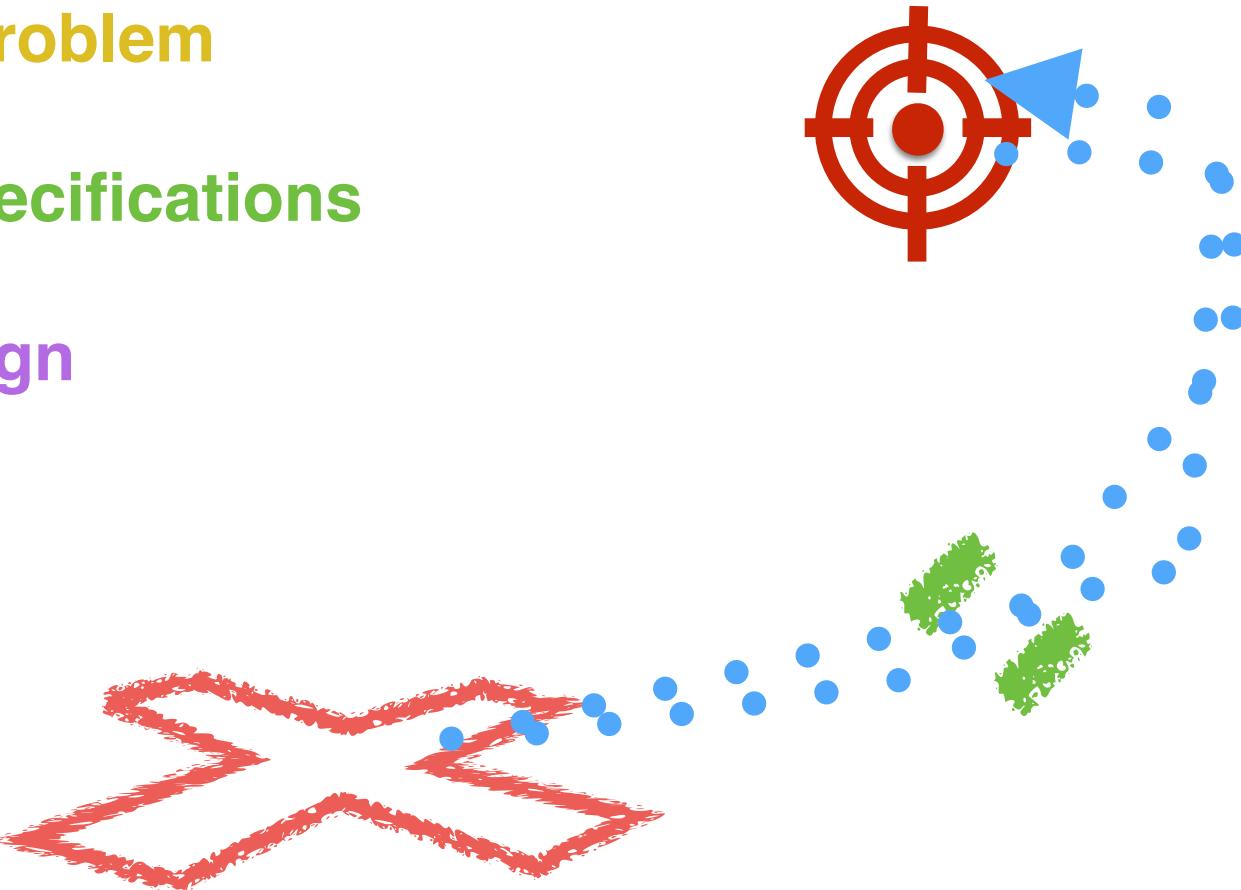
The programming process (idealized)

- Analyze the **Problem**
- Determine **Specifications**
- Create a **Design**
- **Implement**



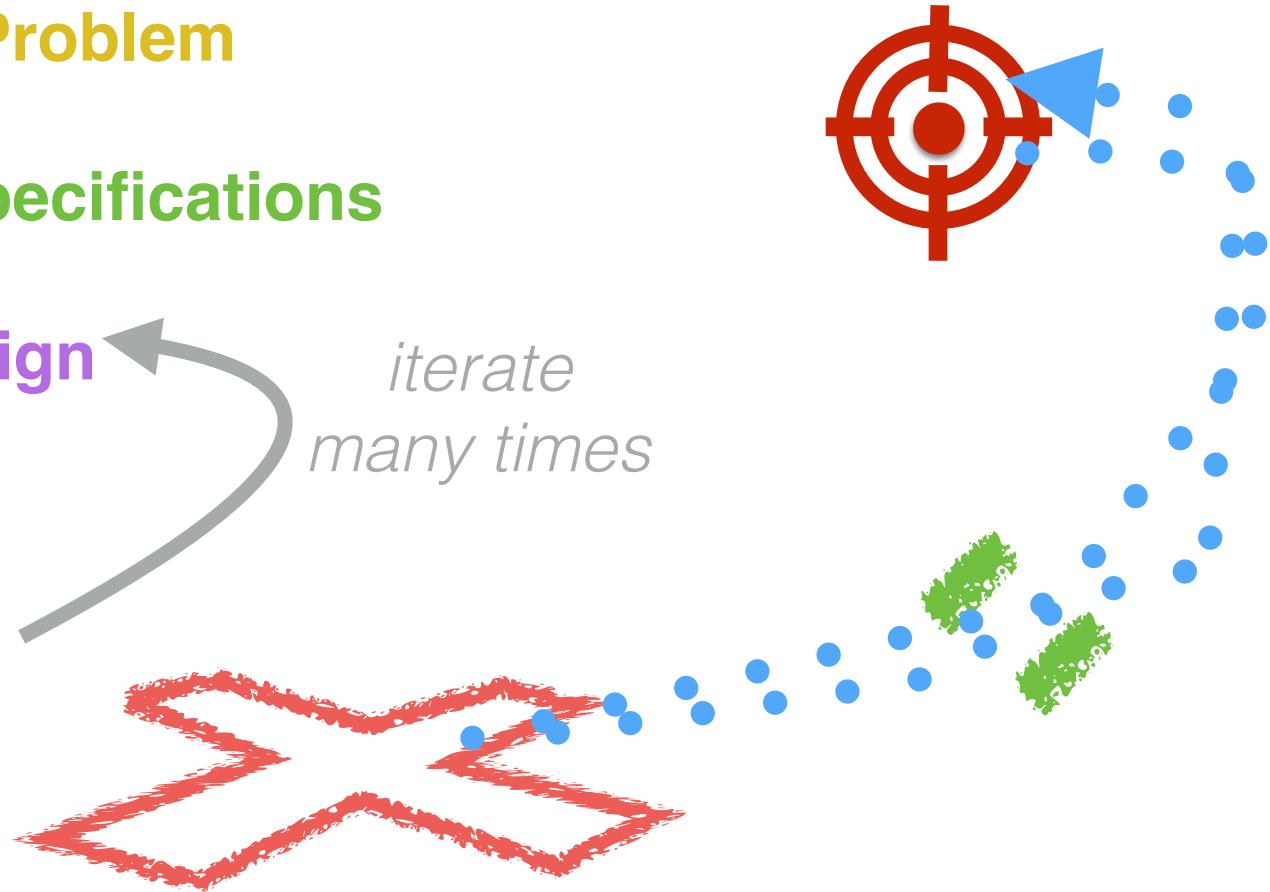
The programming process (idealized)

- Analyze the **Problem**
- Determine **Specifications**
- Create a **Design**
- **Implement**
- Test & Debug



The programming process (more realistic)

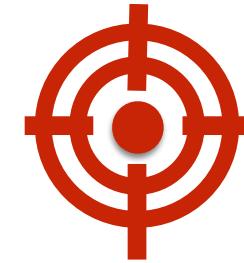
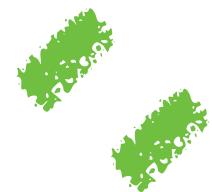
- Analyze the **Problem**
 - Determine **Specifications**
Refine the
 - ~~Create a **Design**~~
↓
 - **Implement**
↓
 - Test & Debug
- iterate many times*



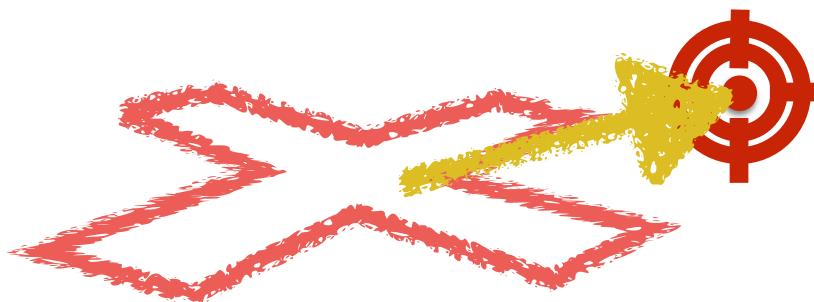
Getting started



D. Thiebaut, Computer Science, Smith College



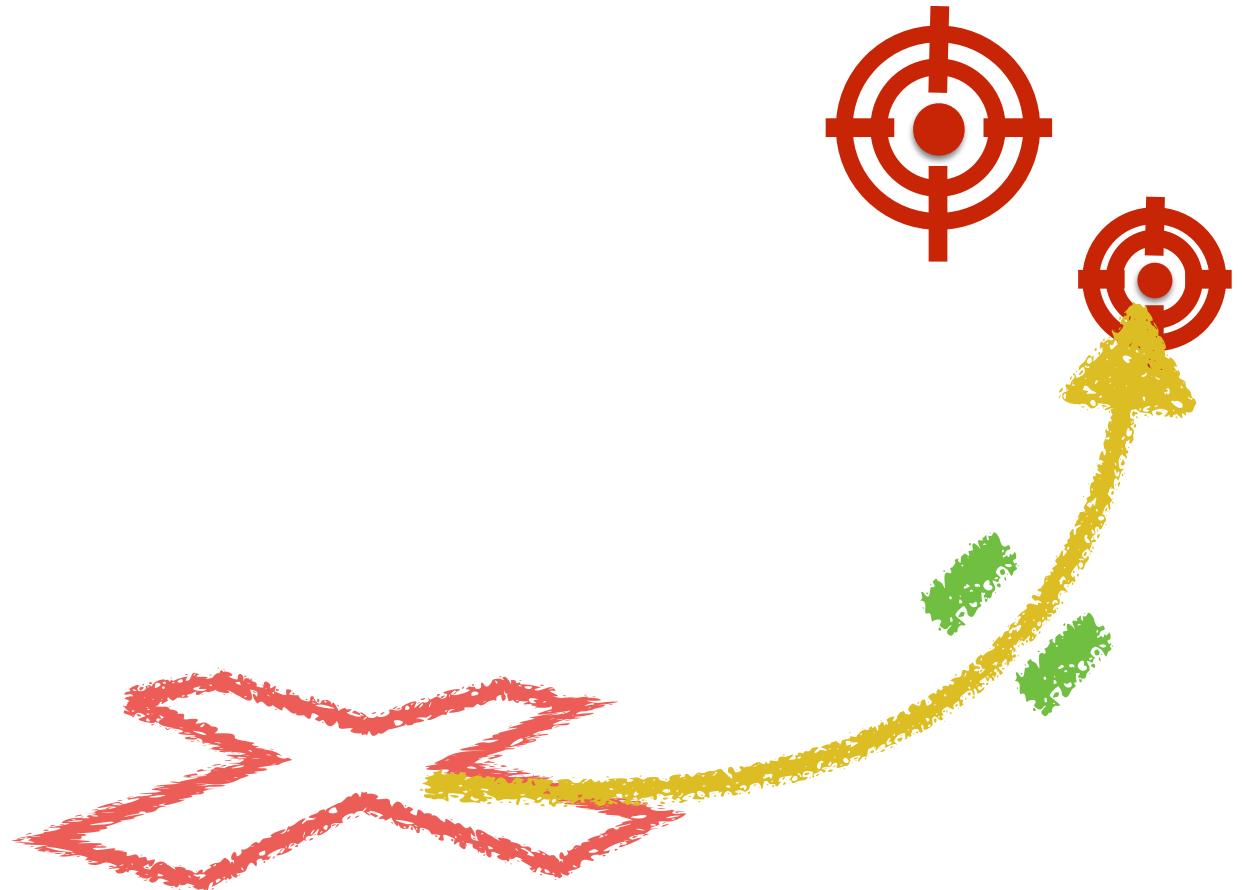
“S⁴”: start
small | slow |
simple



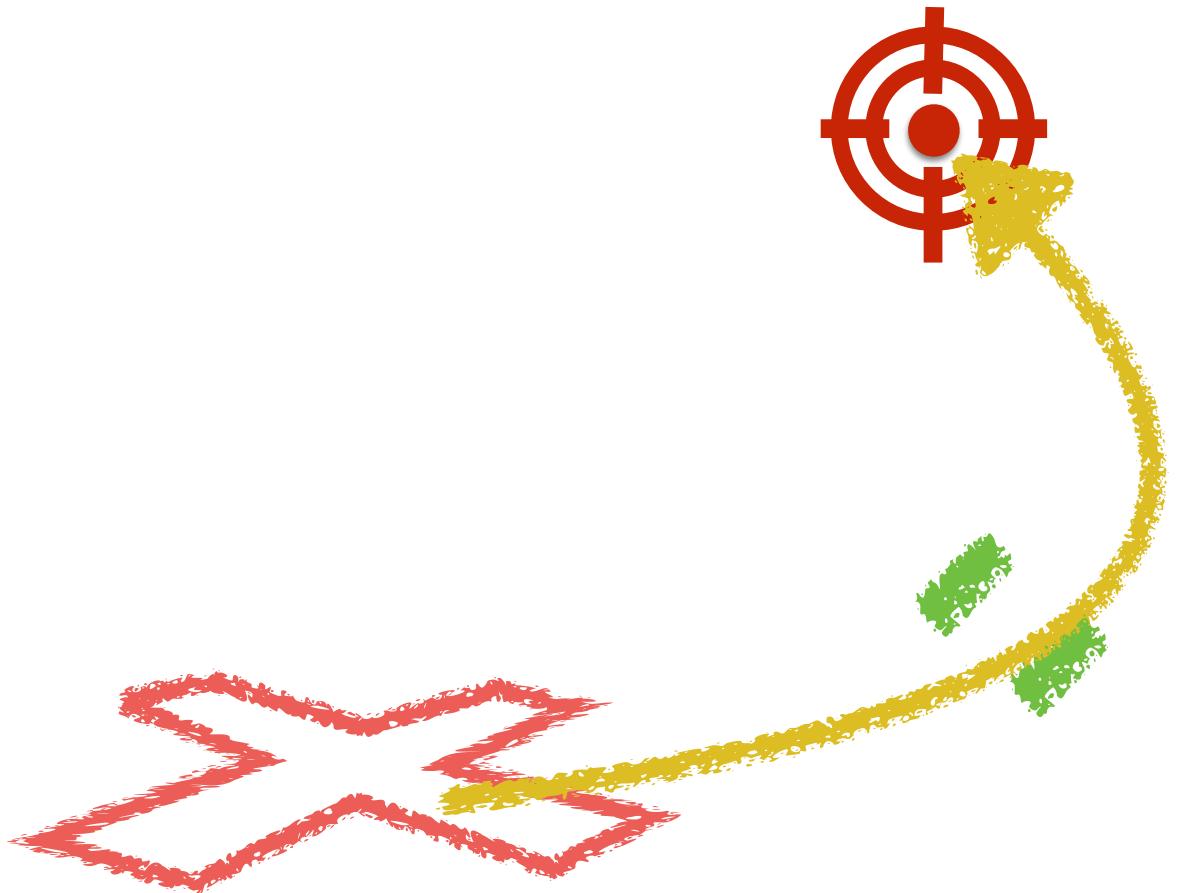
Next: address
the constraints



Add additional
features



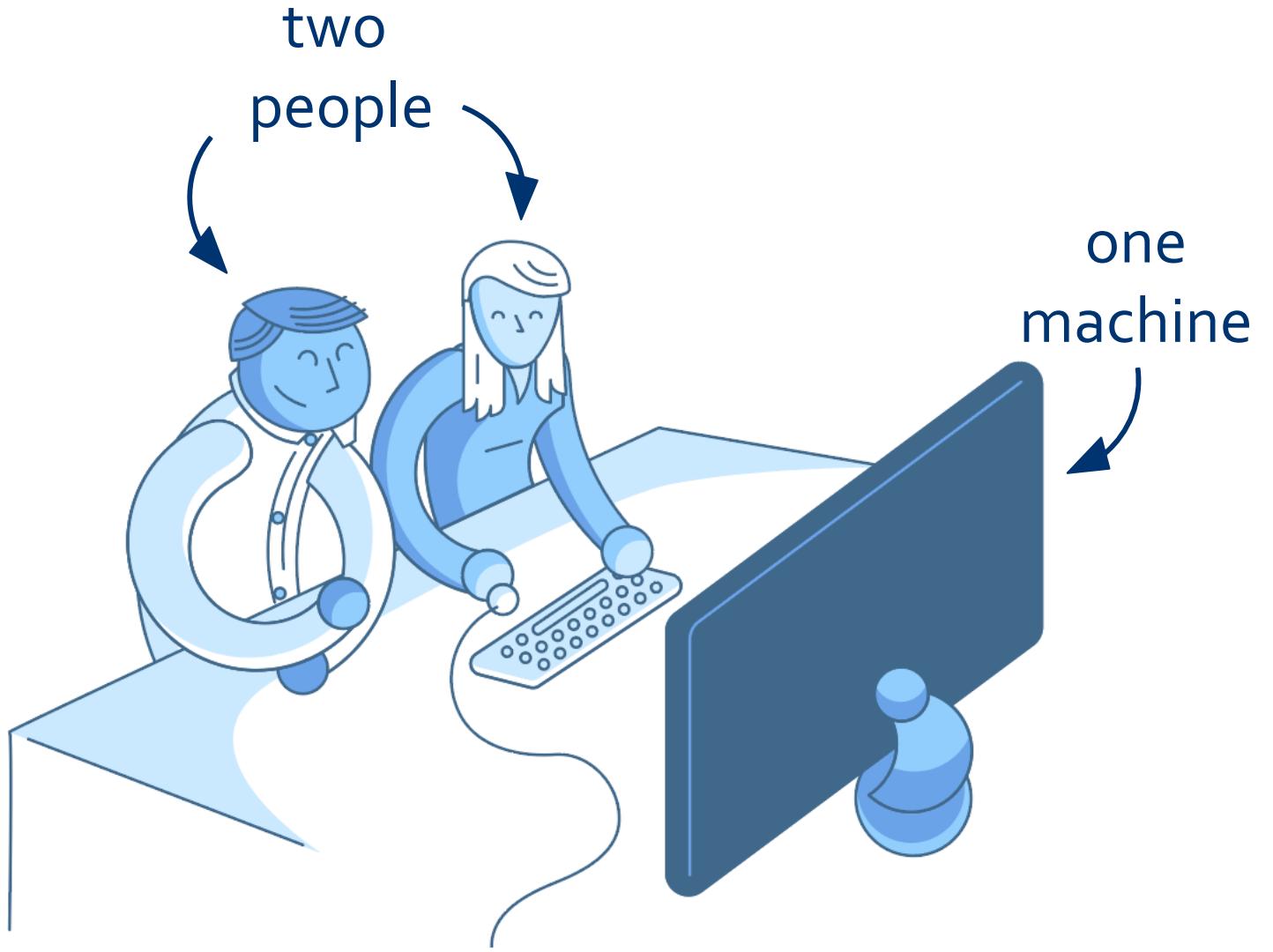
Finally: hit
target



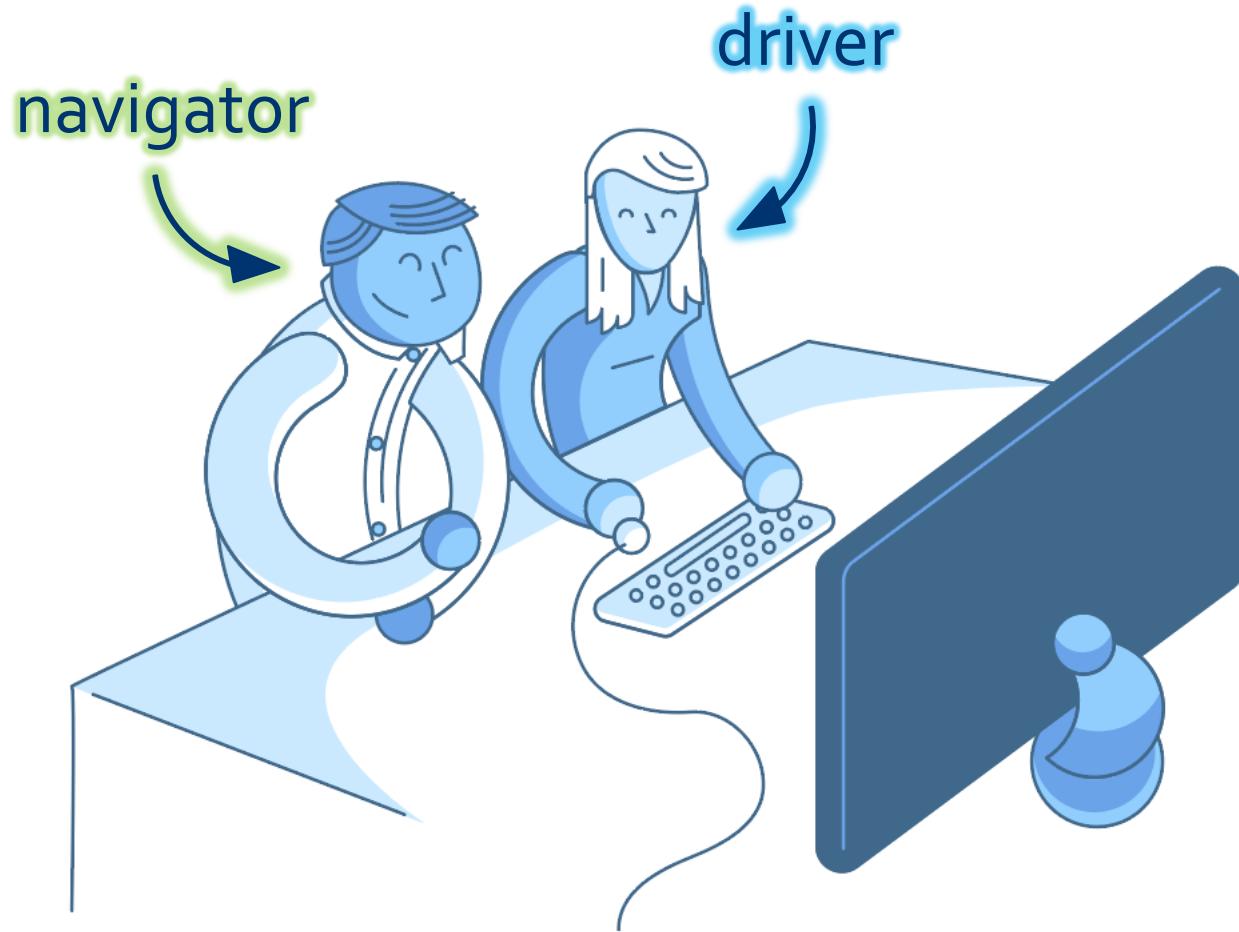
A problematic (but common) model



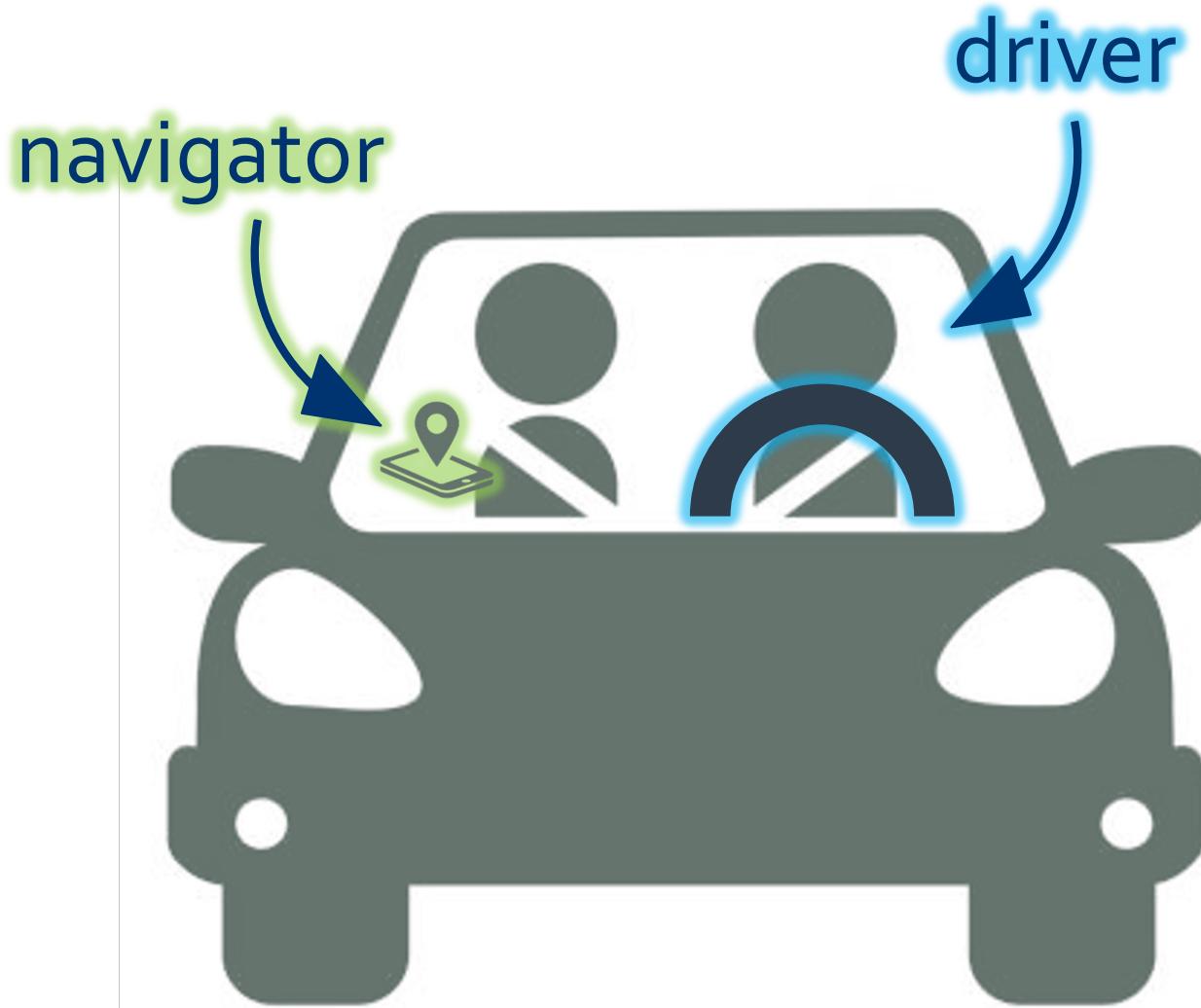
A better
model: “pair
programming”



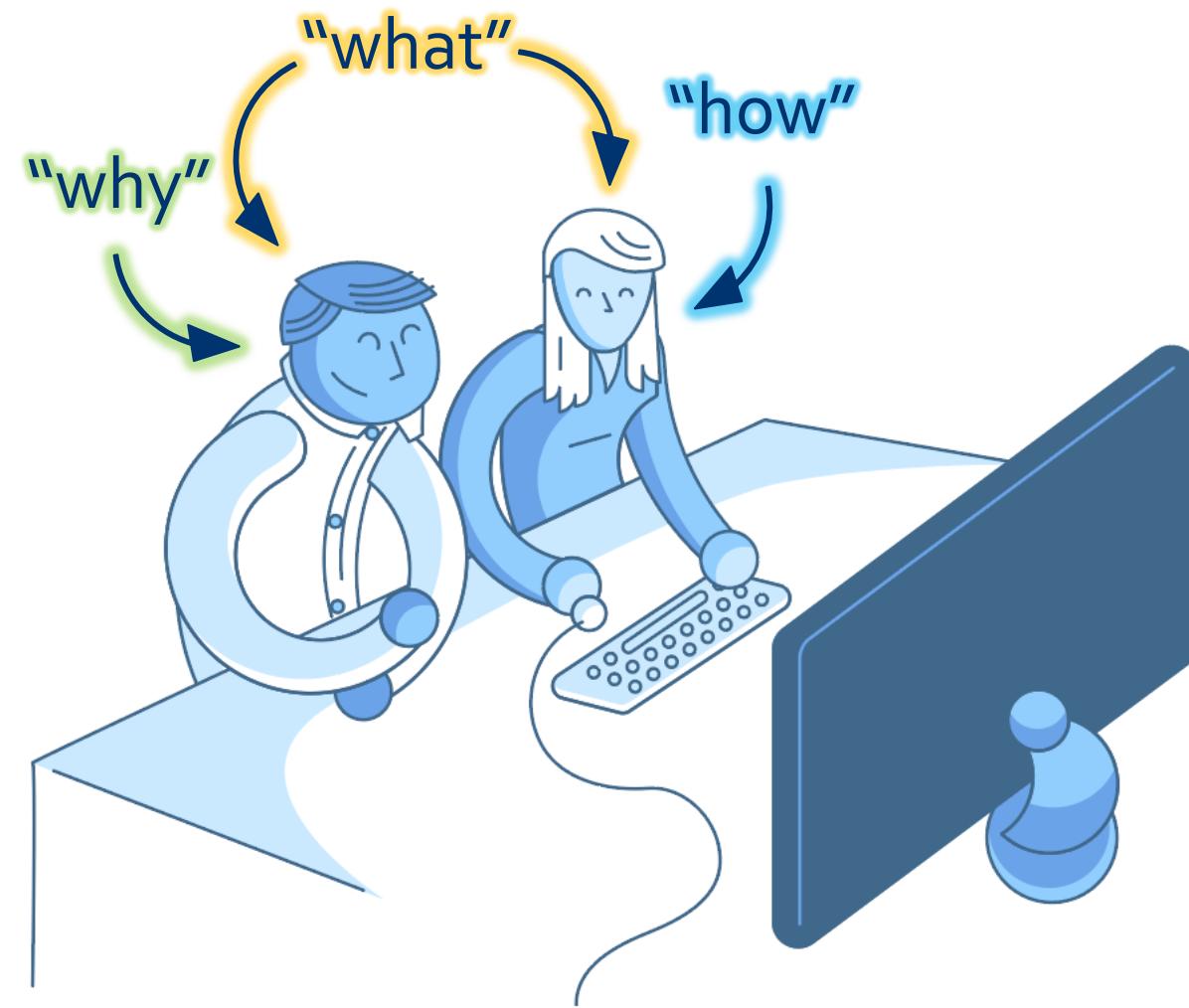
Two
complimentar
y roles

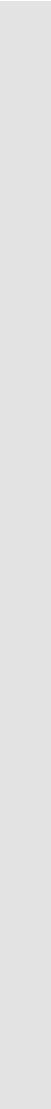


A common
analogy



Navigator vs. driver: different focus





Info & Storage

Storage

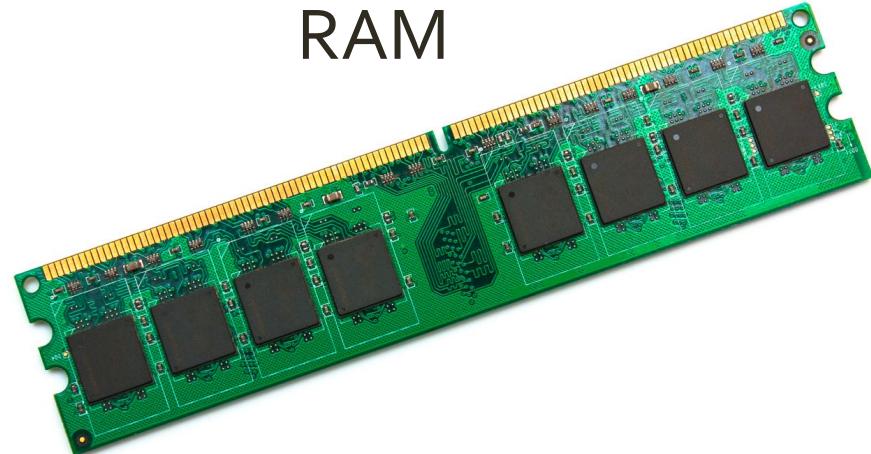
Want to store this important information for later: 

Storage

Want to store this important information for later:

3

RAM



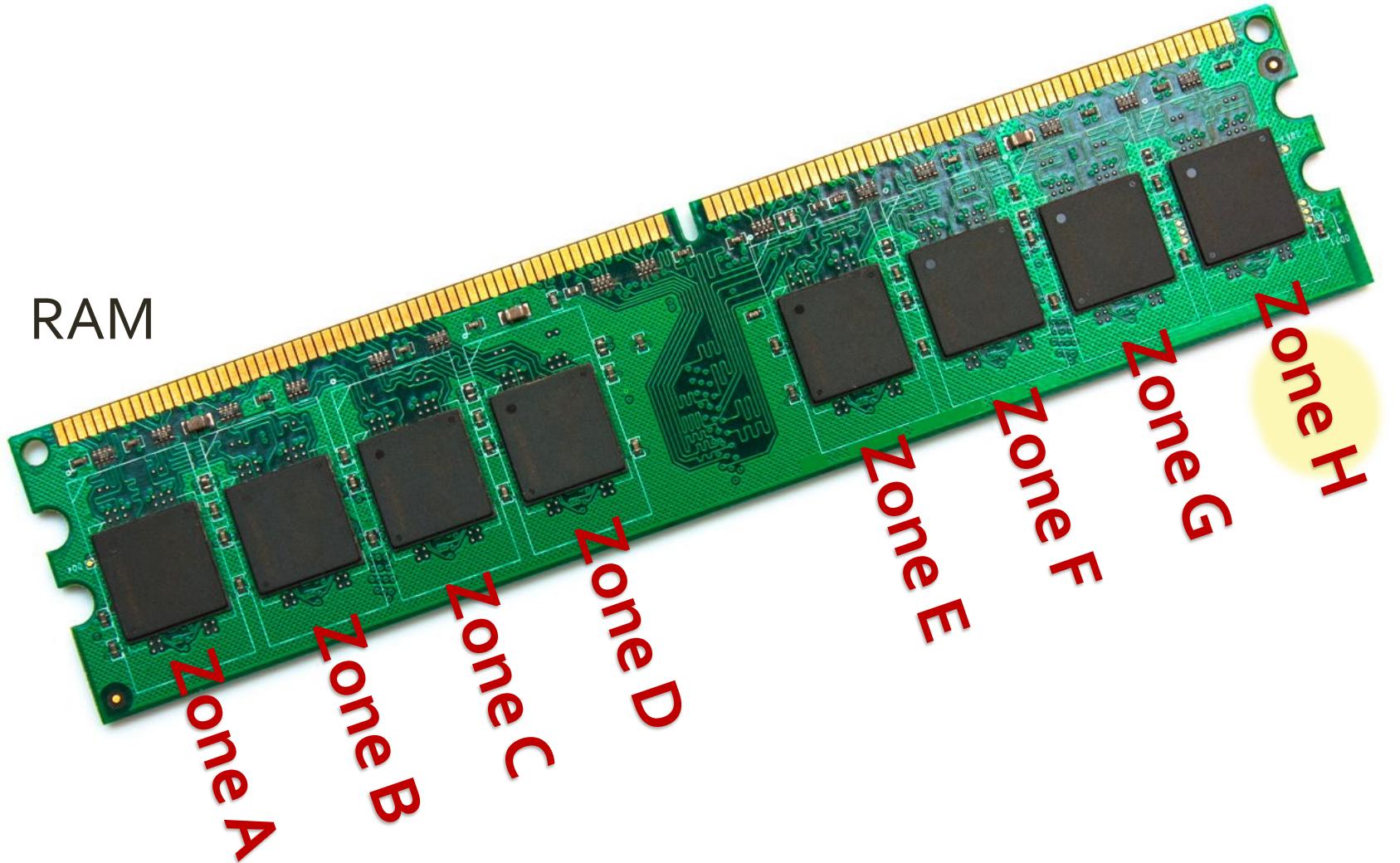
Hard Disk



Storage

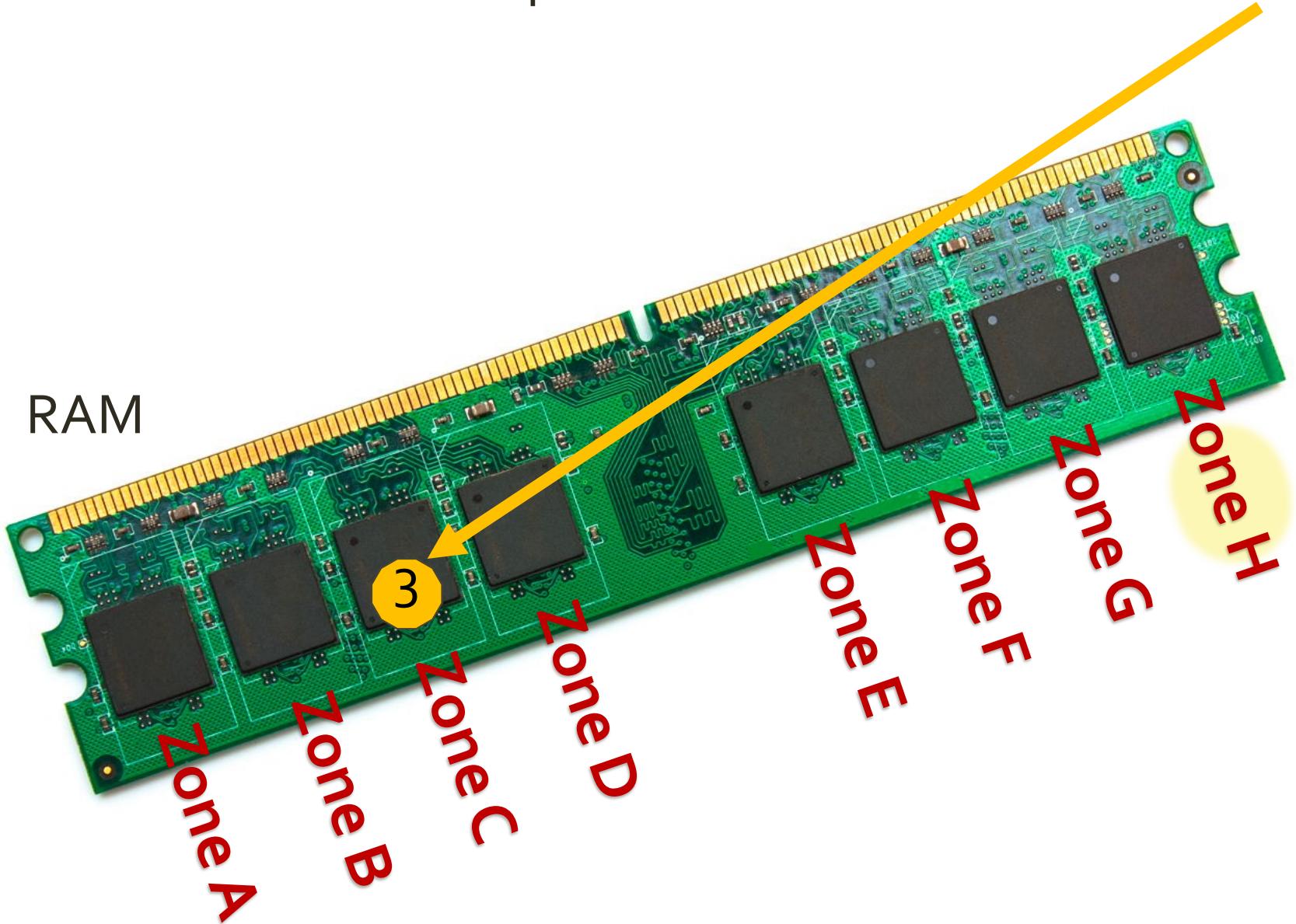
Want to store this important information for later:

3



Storage

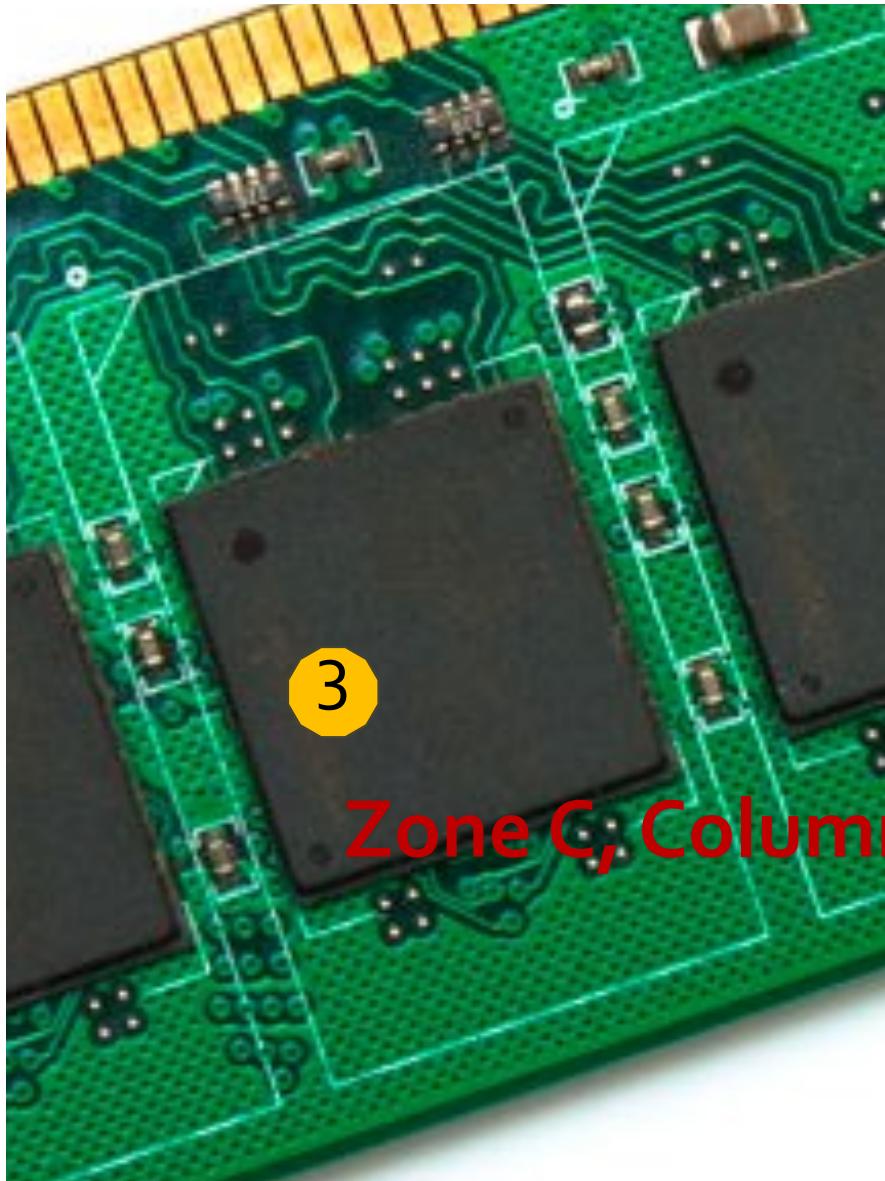
Want to store this important information for later:



Storage

RAM

Want to store this important information for later:



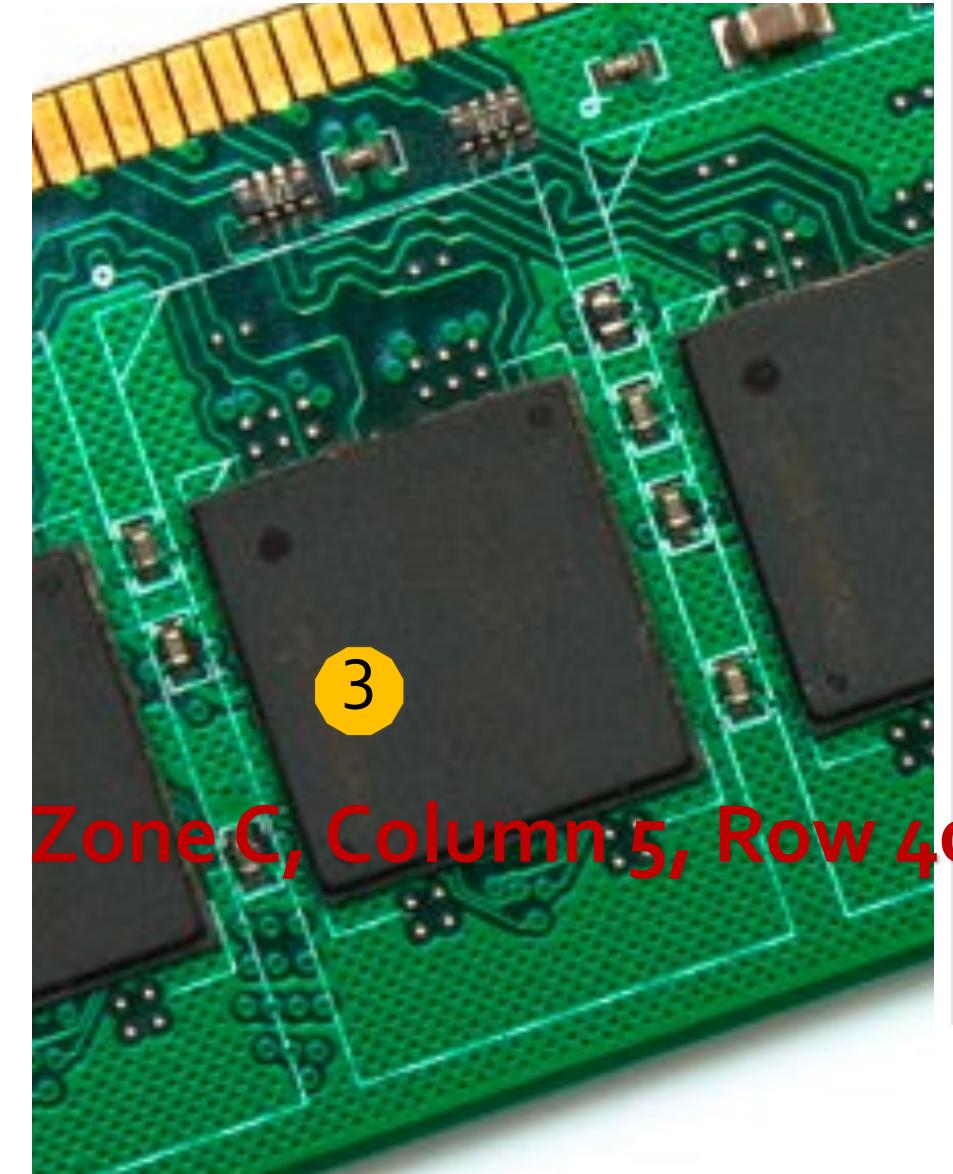
3

Zone C, Column 5, Row 40

Storage



- Want the CPU to double the important information

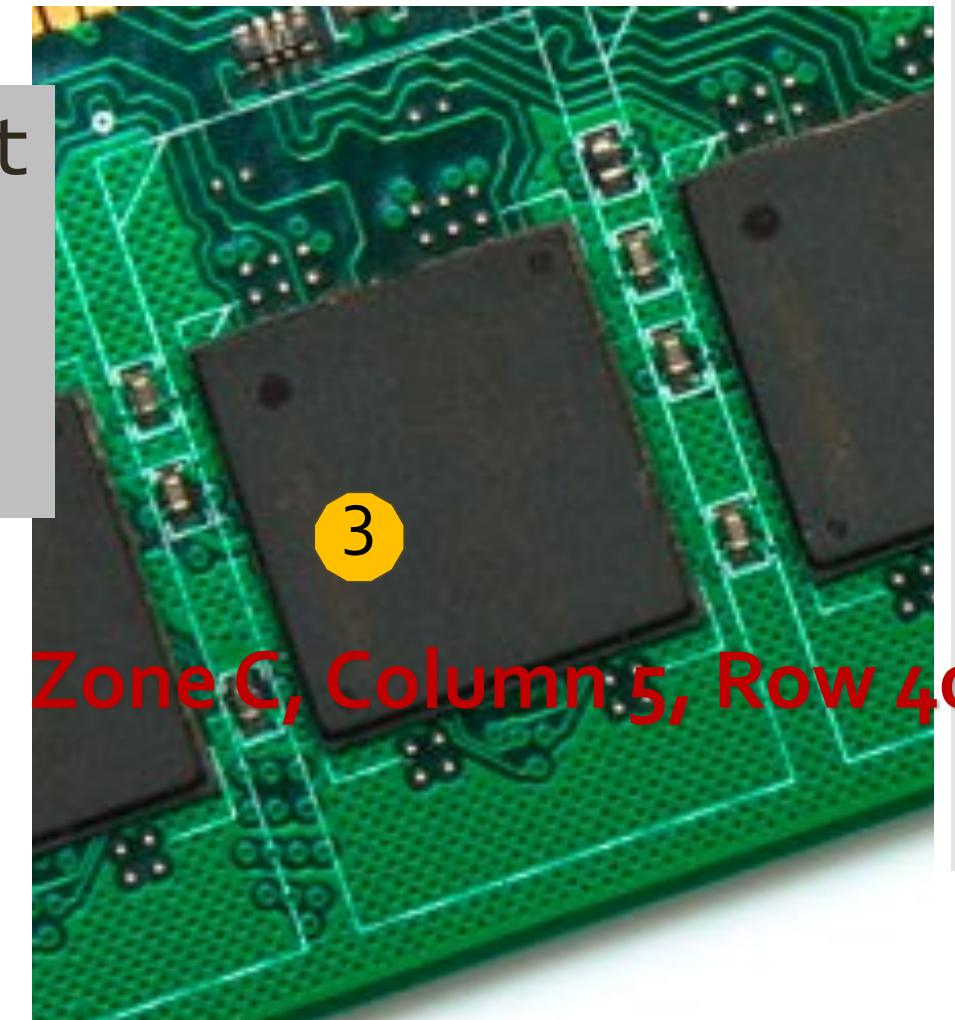


Storage



- Want the CPU to double the important information
- We need to tell it where to look

double “important information” at
“Zone C, Column 5, Row 40”



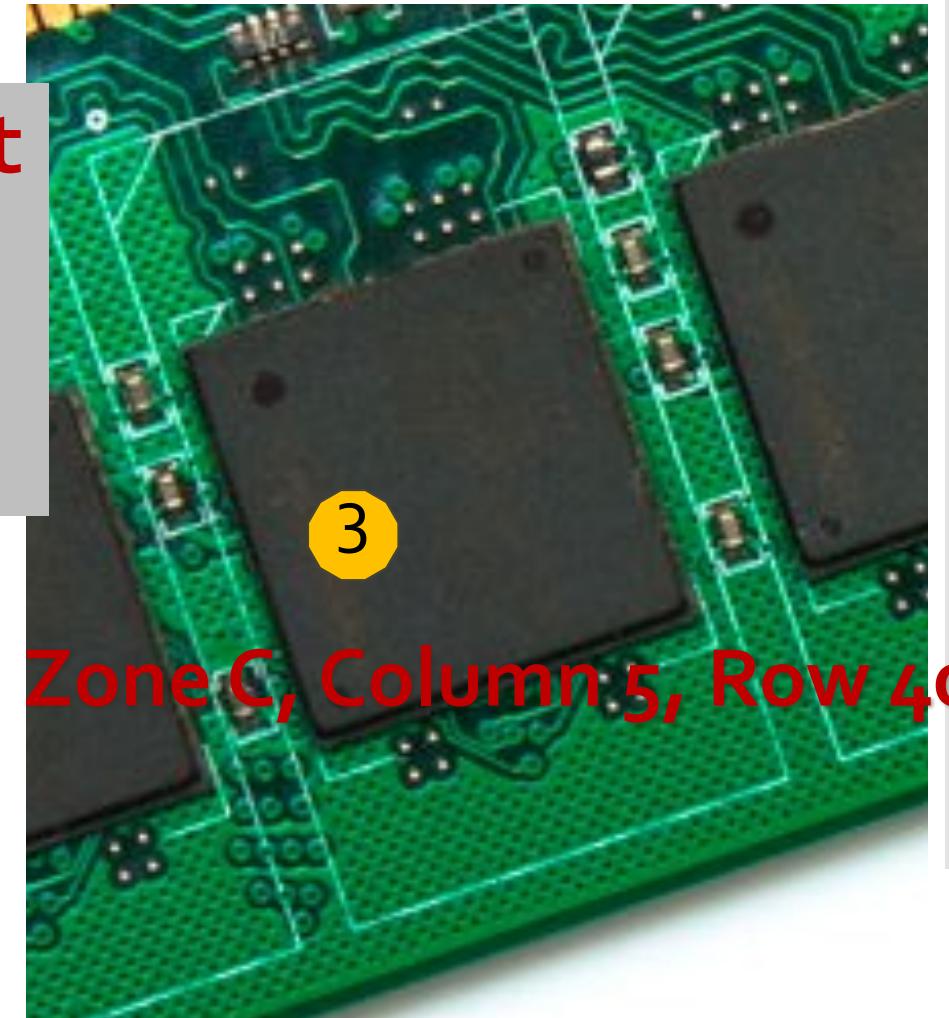
Storage



- Want the CPU to double the important information
- We need to tell it where to look

double “**important information**” at
“**Zone C, Column 5, Row 40**”

- Wordy
- Refer to the same thing



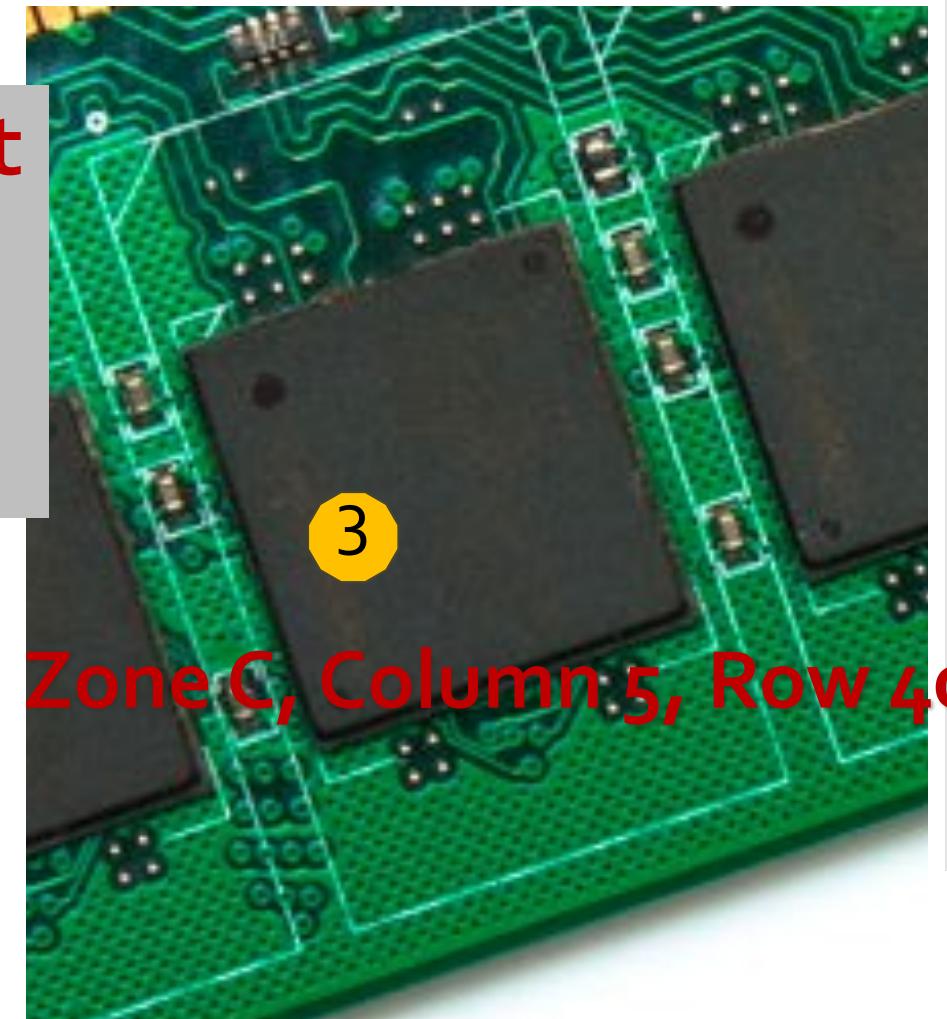
Storage



- Want the CPU to double the important information
- We need to tell it where to look

double “**important information**” at
“**Zone C, Column 5, Row 40**”

- Wordy
- Refer to the same thing
- Let's use a shorthand



Storage

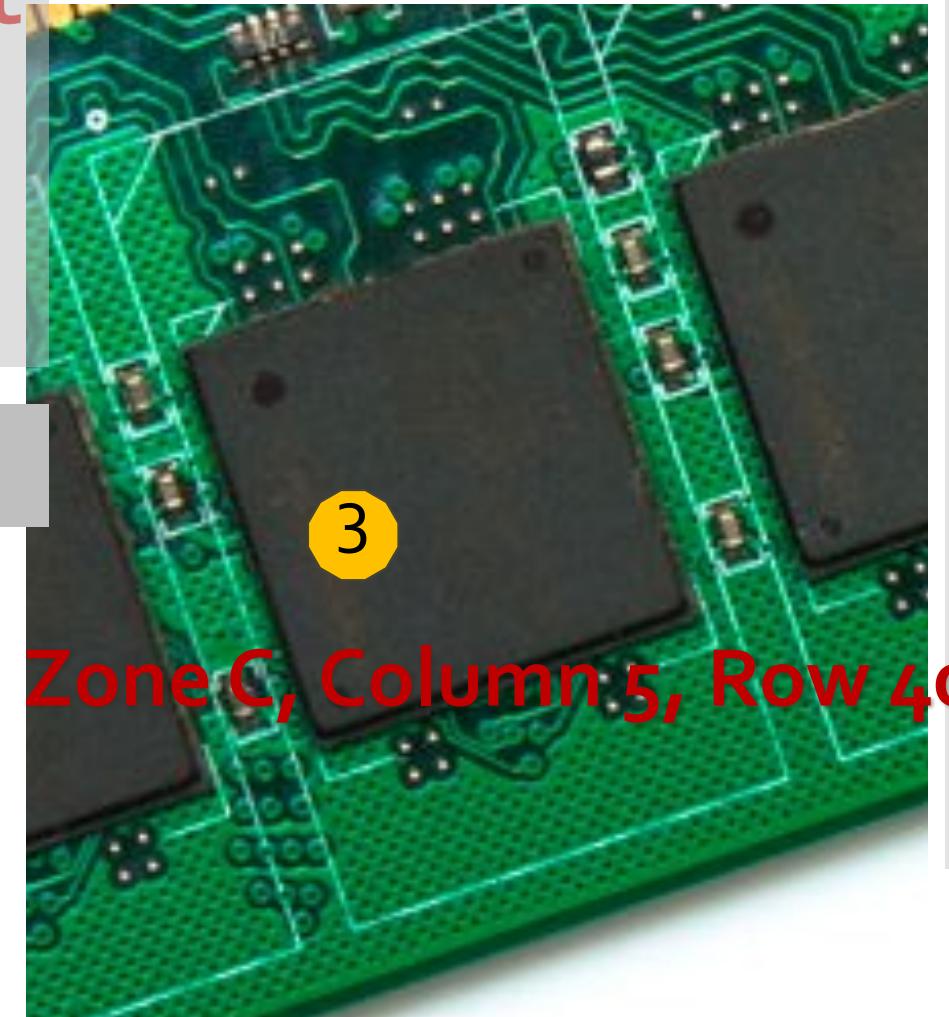


- Want the CPU to double the important information
- We need to tell it where to look

double “**important information**” at
“**Zone C, Column 5, Row 40**”

double **x**

- Wordy
- Refer to the same thing
- Let's use a shorthand



Storage

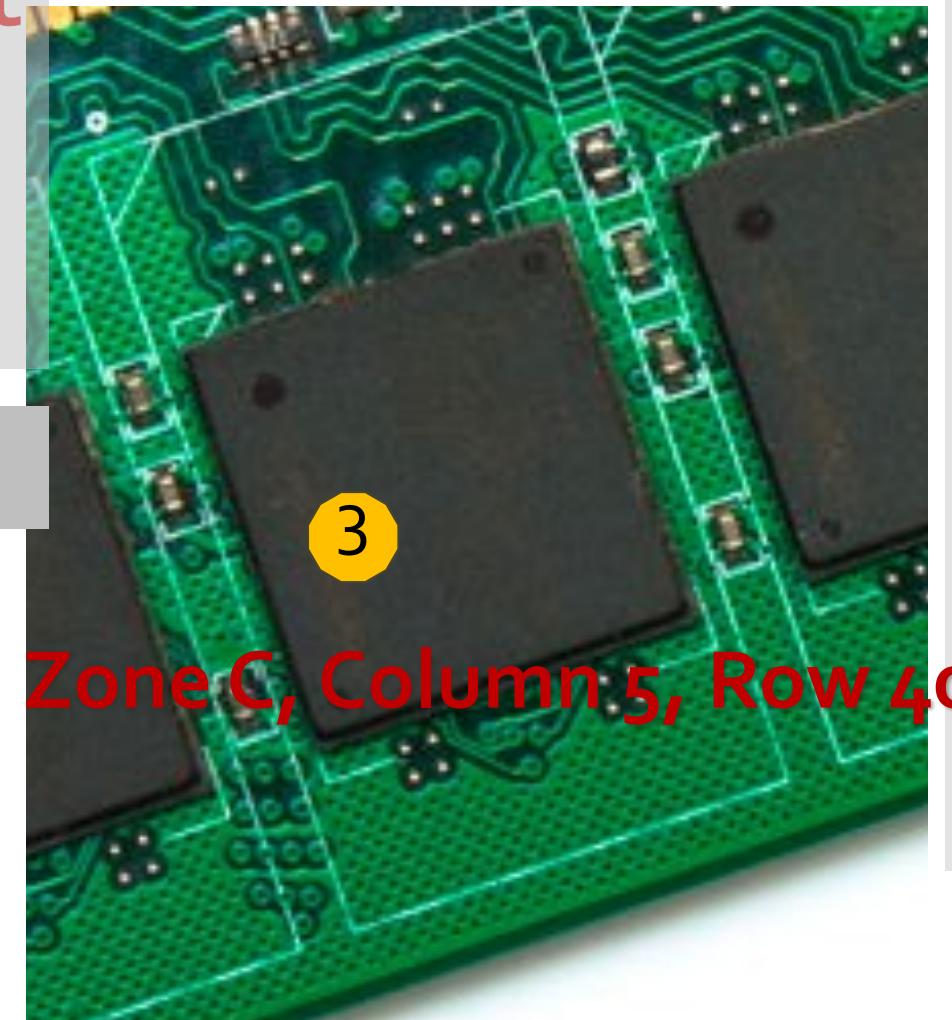


- Want the CPU to double the important information
- We need to tell it where to look

double “**important information**” at
“**Zone C, Column 5, Row 40**”

double **x**

- Wordy
- Refer to the same thing
- Let's use a **variable**



Core concept: variables

- In CS, a **variable** is a place to store a piece of data
- In Python, variables are:
 - **declared** by giving them a name
 - **assigned** using the equals sign
- Example:

declaring
a variable `x`  `x = 3`
assigning
the value 3 to `x`

Core concept: numeric values

- Two kinds of **numbers** in CS:
 - integers (“whole numbers”)
 - floats (“decimals” or “floating point numbers”)
- In Python, the kind of number is implied by whether or not the number contains a **decimal point**
- Example:

`x = 3`

`x = 3.0`

Core concept: strings

- In CS, a sequence of characters that isn't a number is called a **string**
- In Python, a string is declared using **quotation marks**
- Strings can contain letters, numbers, spaces, and special characters
- Example:

x = "Jordan"

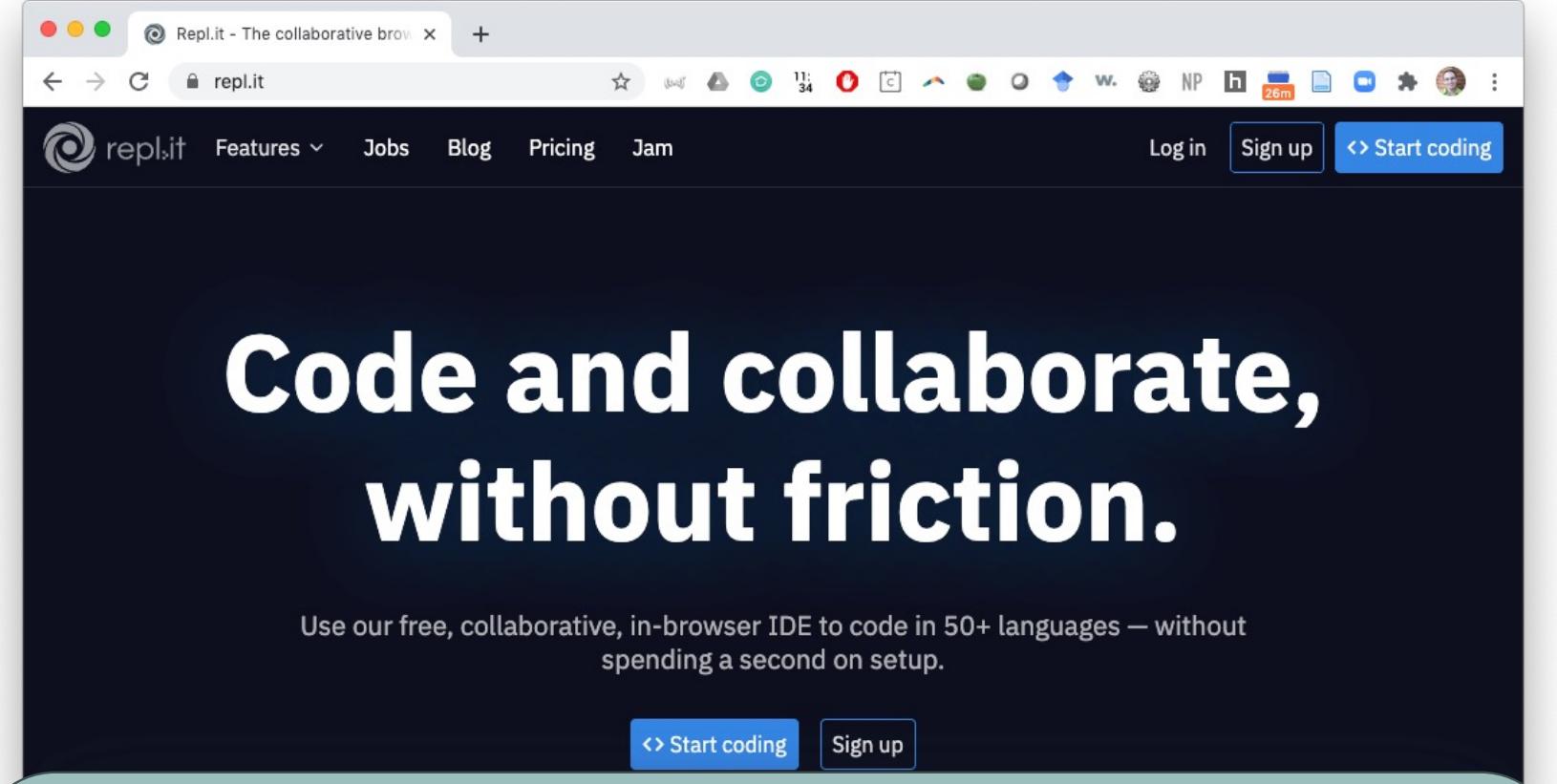
x = "Stoddard G2"

Core concept: print ()

- A function is a procedure / routine that takes in some input and does something with it (just like in math)
- In Python, the `print()` function takes in a value and outputs the value to the console
- This seems silly now, but will come in handy in lab when you write/run your first program inside a **file**

Coding Environment

repl.it



The screenshot shows the repl.it homepage. The URL 'repl.it' is visible in the address bar. The page features a large, bold white text 'Code and collaborate, without friction.' on a dark background. Below this, a smaller text reads: 'Use our free, collaborative, in-browser IDE to code in 50+ languages — without spending a second on setup.' At the bottom, there are two buttons: '<> Start coding' and 'Sign up'. A large teal callout box in the foreground contains the text 'Click to accept invite to this class:' followed by a long, red, underlined URL.

Click to accept invite to this class:

<https://replit.com/teams/join/cbfzmzolnpzhbbarrspukzusuklzeihq-CAIS117-F23>