- 1. Magic number: P5 binary, P2 ASCII + Whitespace (blanks, TABs, CRs, LFs)
- 2. Width (formatted as ASCII characters in decimal) +whitespace+ Height (again in ASCII decimal) + Whitespace (blanks, TABs, CRs, LFs)
- 3. The maximum gray value (Maxval), in ASCII decimal. Must be less than 65536 + newline or other single whitespace character.
- 4. A raster of Height rows, in order from top to bottom. Each row consists of Width gray values, in order from left to right.
- 5. Characters from a "#" to the next end-of-line, before the maxval line, are comments and are ignored.
