

CS 121  
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February 4, 2011

Programming Assignment #2  
20 Points  
Due: February 11, 2011

**Objective:** *Implement* a program to *play The Game of Life* as described below.

**Rules:**

**Birth** If an unoccupied cell has three occupied neighbors, it becomes occupied.

**Survival** If an occupied cell has two or three neighbors, the organism survives to the next generation.

**Death** If an occupied cell has 0, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 occupied neighbors, the organism dies (0, 1 neighbor: loneliness; 4–8: overcrowding).

**Description:** Your program should be capable of performing the following operations:

1. Reading and storing an initial pattern (life form?). The location and exact number of cells is not known, but will be specified by a position  $(x, y)$  and an  $n$  by  $m$  grid of values.
2. Find the maximum number of generations a cell has been alive.
3. Display the current status of the field.

**Suggestions:**

- Design your program.
- Revise your design as necessary.
- Develop your program incrementally.
- Think!

**Deliverables:**

- Program—fully documented! All functions should be fully documented also.
- Output—Neatly formatted and documented.
- A program design. Describe all classes and methods needed to implement your program.
- Programming Log:
  - Record the time required to design and implement your program.
  - Record of things you encountered/learned while implementing your program.