Text Processing in Linux - The Cut Command - #5

Problem Statement

Task

Given a tab delimited file with several columns (tsv format) print the first three fields.

Input Format

A tab-separated file with lines of ASCII text only.

Input Constraints

1 <= **N** <= 100

2 <= **C** <= 100 (N is the number of lines of text in the input file and C is the number of columns of data in the file)

Note: These values don't really impact your command.

Output Format

The output should contain **N** lines. For each line in the input, print the first three fields.

Sample Input

```
1   New York, New York[10] 8,244,910  1   New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA MSA  19,015,900  1   New York-Newark-Bridgeport, NY-NJ-CT-PA CSA 22,214,083
2   Los Angeles, California 3,819,702  2   Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA MSA    12,944,801  2   Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside, CA CSA    18,081,569
3   Chicago, Illinois   2,707,120   3   Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI MSA 9,504,753   3   Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City, IL-IN-WI CSA 9,729,825
4   Houston, Texas  2,145,146   4   Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX MSA 6,526,548   4   Washington-Baltimore-Northern Virginia, DC-MD-VA-WV CSA 8,718,083
5   Philadelphia, Pennsylvania[11] 1,536,471  5   Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX MSA  6,086,538   5   Boston-Worcester-Manchester, MA-RI-NH CSA   7,601,061
```

Sample Output

```
1   New York, New York[10] 8,244,910
2   Los Angeles, California 3,819,702
3   Chicago, Illinois   2,707,120
4   Houston, Texas  2,145,146
5   Philadelphia, Pennsylvania[11] 1,536,471
```

Recommended References

This is a very well written tutorial demonstrating different ways in which 'cut' may be used to either print characters at a particular position, or to print columns of a text file, based on delimiters. The latter is particularly useful while dealing with tabulated data in *.tsv or *.csv format.