
WELCOME!

(download slides and .py files and follow along!)

6.0001 LECTURE 1

TODAY

- course info
- what is computation
- python basics
- mathematical operations
- python variables and types
- NOTE: **slides and code files up before each lecture**
 - highly encourage you to download them before lecture
 - take notes and run code files when I do
 - bring computers to answer **in-class practice exercises!**

COURSE INFO

■ Grading

- approx. 20% Quiz
- approx. 40% Final
- approx. 30% Problem Sets
- approx. 10% MITx Finger Exercises

COURSE POLICIES

■ Collaboration

- may collaborate with anyone
- required to write code independently and write names of all collaborators on submission
- we will be running a code similarity program on all psets

■ Extensions

- **no extensions**
- **late days**, see course website for details
- **drop and roll** weight of max two psets in final exam grade
- should be EMERGENCY use only

RECITATIONS

- not mandatory

- two flavors

- 1) Lecture review: **review** lecture material

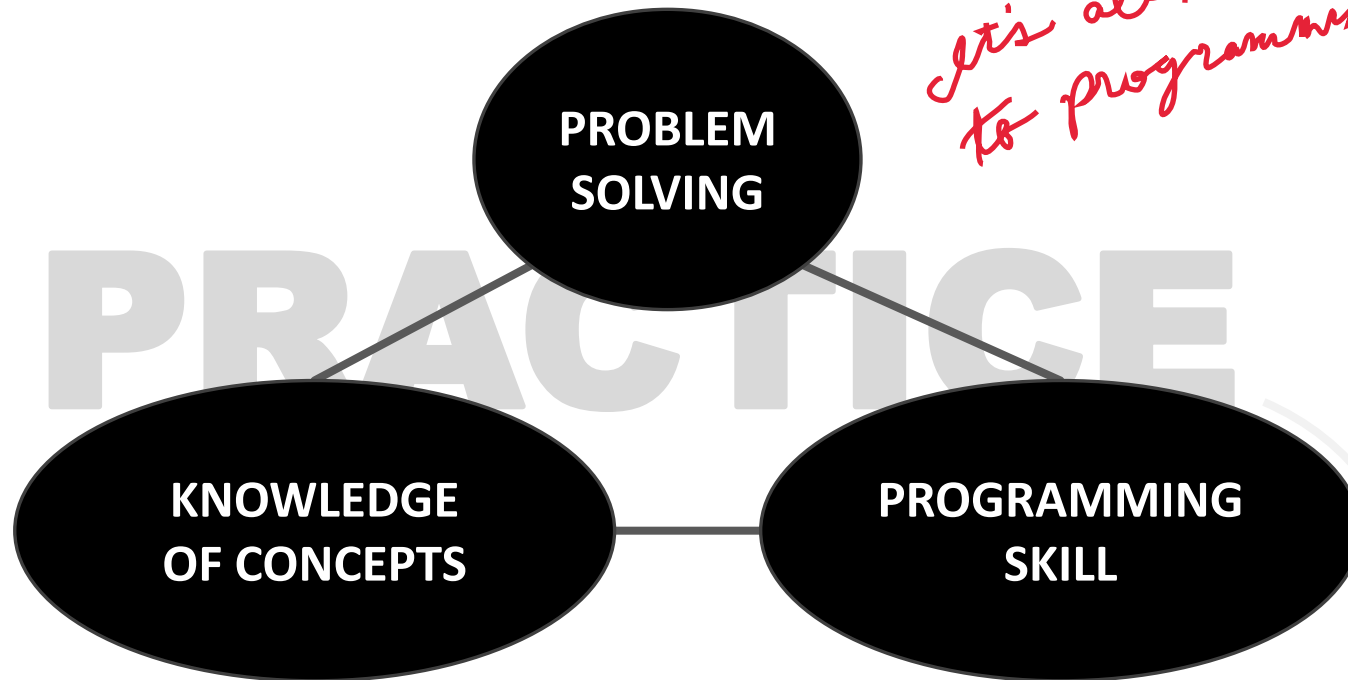
- if you missed lecture
- if you need a different take on the same concepts

- 2) Problem solving: teach you **how to solve** programming problems

- useful if you don't know how to set up pseudocode from pset words
- we show a couple of harder questions
- walk you through how to approach solving the problem
- brainstorm code solution along with the recitation instructor
- will post solutions after

FAST PACED COURSE

- Position yourself to succeed!
 - **read psets when they come out** and come back to them later
 - use late days in emergency situations
- New to programming? **PRACTICE. PRACTICE? PRACTICE!**
 - can't passively absorb programming as a skill
 - download code before lecture and follow along
 - do MITx finger exercises
 - don't be afraid to try out Python commands!



TOPICS

- represent knowledge with **data structures**
 - **iteration and recursion** as computational metaphors
 - **abstraction** of procedures and data types
 - **organize and modularize** systems using object classes and methods
 - different classes of **algorithms**, searching and sorting
 - **complexity** of algorithms
- thinking algorithmically — solutions, but also evaluating what solutions are best*

WHAT DOES A COMPUTER DO

- Fundamentally:
 - performs **calculations**
a billion calculations per second!
 - **remembers** results
100s of gigabytes of storage!
- What kinds of calculations?
 - **built-in** to the language
 - ones that **you define** as the programmer
- computers only know what you tell them

computer = powerful + dumb

TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE

- **declarative knowledge** is **statements of fact**.
 - someone will win a Google Cardboard before class ends
- **imperative knowledge** is a **recipe** or “how-to”.
 - 1) Students sign up for raffle
 - 2) Ana opens her IDE
 - 3) Ana chooses a random number between 1st and nth responder
 - 4) Ana finds the number in the responders sheet. Winner!

A NUMERICAL EXAMPLE

- square root of a number x is y such that $y^*y = x$
- recipe for deducing square root of a number x (16)
 - 1) Start with a **guess**, g
 - 2) If g^*g is **close enough** to x , stop and say g is the answer
 - 3) Otherwise make a **new guess** by averaging g and x/g
 - 4) Using the new guess, **repeat** process until close enough


g	g^*g	x/g	$(g+x/g)/2$
3	9	16/3	4.17
4.17	17.36	3.837	4.0035
4.0035	16.0277	3.997	4.000002

repeat until
close
enough

new guess

close
enough!

WHAT IS A RECIPE

- 1) sequence of simple **steps**
- 2) **flow of control** process that specifies when each step is executed
- 3) a means of determining **when to stop** 

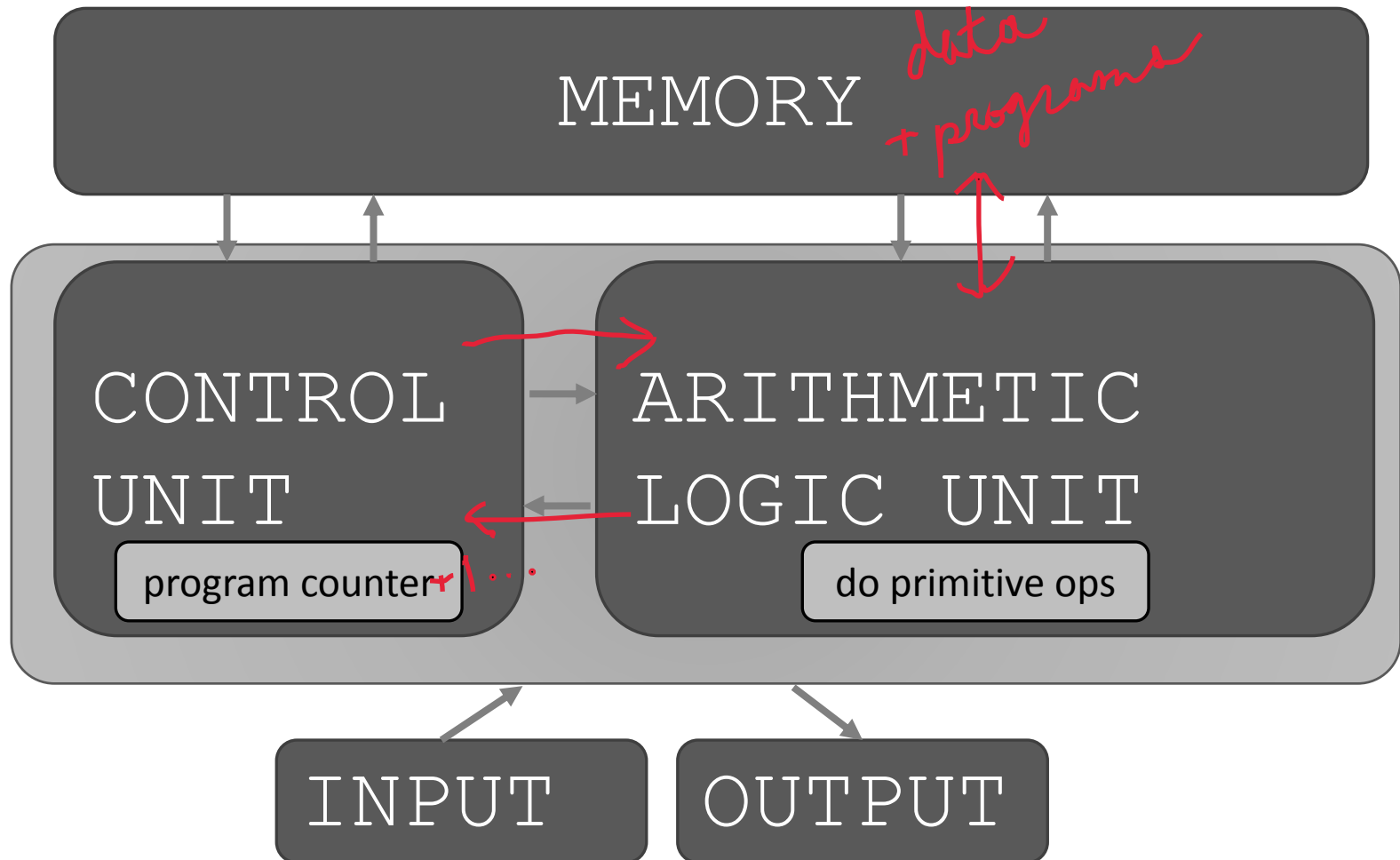
$1+2+3$ = an **algorithm**!

COMPUTERS ARE MACHINES


- how to capture a recipe in a mechanical process
- **fixed program** computer
 - calculator
- **stored program** computer
 - machine stores and executes instructions

*von neuman architecture
can do multiple tasks on
one machine*

BASIC MACHINE ARCHITECTURE



STORED PROGRAM COMPUTER

- sequence of **instructions stored** inside computer
 - built from predefined set of primitive instructions
 - 1) arithmetic and logic ✓
 - 2) simple tests ✓
 - 3) moving data ✓
- special program (interpreter) **executes each instruction in order** 
 - use tests to change flow of control through sequence
 - stop when done **HALT**

BASIC PRIMITIVES

- Turing showed that you can **compute anything** using 6 primitives
- modern programming languages have more convenient set of primitives
- can abstract methods to **create new primitives**
abstraction
- anything computable in one language is computable in any other programming language

CREATING RECIPES

- a programming language provides a set of primitive **operations**
- **expressions** are complex but legal combinations of primitives in a programming language
- expressions and computations have **values** and meanings in a programming language

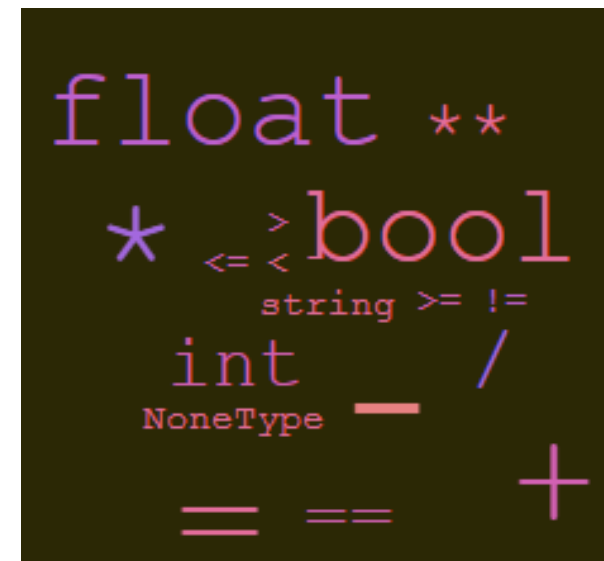
ASPECTS OF LANGUAGES

- **primitive constructs**

- English: words
- programming language: numbers, strings, simple operators



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ASPECTS OF LANGUAGES

■ **syntax**

- English: "cat dog boy" → not syntactically valid
"cat hugs boy" → syntactically valid
- programming language: "hi"5 → not syntactically valid
3.2*5 → syntactically valid

ASPECTS OF LANGUAGES

- **static semantics** is which syntactically valid strings have meaning
 - English: "I are hungry" → syntactically valid
but static semantic error
 - programming language: $3.2 * 5$ → syntactically valid
 $3 + "hi"$ → static semantic error

ASPECTS OF LANGUAGES

- **semantics** is the meaning associated with a syntactically correct string of symbols with no static semantic errors
 - English: can have many meanings "Flying planes can be dangerous"
 - programming languages: have only one meaning but may not be what programmer intended

(powerful + dumb!)

check your assumptions
about what the code does

WHERE THINGS GO WRONG

- **syntactic errors**

- common and easily caught

- **static semantic errors**

- some languages check for these before running program
- can cause unpredictable behavior

mostly will be caught by Python

- no semantic errors but **different meaning than what programmer intended**

- program crashes, stops running
- program runs forever
- program gives an answer but different than expected

the WORST

PYTHON PROGRAMS

- a **program** is a sequence of definitions and commands
 - definitions **evaluated**
 - commands **executed** by Python interpreter in a shell
- **commands** (statements) instruct interpreter to do something
- can be typed directly in a **shell** or stored in a **file** that is read into the shell and evaluated
 - Problem Set 0 will introduce you to these in Anaconda

OBJECTS

- programs manipulate **data objects**
- objects have a **type** that defines the kinds of things programs can do to them
 - Ana is a human so she can walk, speak English, etc.
 - Chewbacca is a wookiee so he can walk, “mwaaarhrhh”, etc.
- objects are
 - scalar (cannot be subdivided)
 - non-scalar (have internal structure that can be accessed)

not just "what kind of data is this?"

atomic data
compound/container data

SCALAR OBJECTS

- `int` – represent **integers**, ex. 5
- `float` – represent **real numbers**, ex. 3.27 *notes capitalization*
- `bool` – represent **Boolean** values True and False
- `NoneType` – **special** and has one value, `None`
- can use `type()` to see the type of an object

```
>>> type(5)
```

```
int
```

```
>>> type(3.0)
```

```
float
```

*what you write into
the Python shell*

*what shows after
hitting enter*

TYPE CONVERSIONS (CAST)

- can **convert object of one type to another**
- `float(3)` converts integer 3 to float 3.0
- `int(3.9)` truncates float 3.9 to integer 3

↓ not rounding

PRINTING TO CONSOLE

- to show output from code to a user, use `print` command

In [11]: 3+2

Out[11]: 5

*"Out" tells you it's an
interaction within the
shell only*

In [12]: `print(3+2)`

5

↖ no "out"

*No "Out" means it is
actually shown to a user,
apparent when you
edit/run files*

EXPRESSIONS

- **combine objects and operators** to form expressions
- an expression has a **value**, which has a type
- syntax for a simple expression

<object> <operator> <object>

↳ a function call is an expression

OPERATORS ON ints and floats

- $i + j$ → the **sum**
 - $i - j$ → the **difference**
 - $i * j$ → the **product**
 - i / j → **division**
 - $i // j$ → *floor div* → *rounds down to int*
 - $i \% j$ → the **remainder** when i is divided by j
 - $i ** j$ → i to the **power** of j
- modulus*
- if both are ints, result is int
if either or both are floats, result is float
- result is float

SIMPLE OPERATIONS

- parentheses used to tell Python to do these operations first
 - **operator precedence** without parentheses
 - **
 - *
 - /
 - + and – executed left to right, as appear in expression
- use parentheses*

BINDING VARIABLES AND VALUES

- equal sign is an **assignment** of a value to a variable name

variable
`pi` = `3.14159` *value*

`pi_approx = 22/7` - *gives a float value*

- value stored in computer memory
- an assignment binds name to value
- retrieve value associated with name or variable by invoking the name, by typing `pi`

3 = a → error

ABSTRACTING EXPRESSIONS

- why **give names** to values of expressions?
- to **reuse names** instead of values
- easier to change code later

Maintainability

```
pi = 3.14159  
radius = 2.2  
area = pi*(radius**2)
```


PROGRAMMING vs MATH

- in programming, you do not “solve for x”

```
pi = 3.14159
radius = 2.2
# area of circle
area = pi*(radius**2)
radius = radius+1
```

no $2=x$ (except in given)

value

value

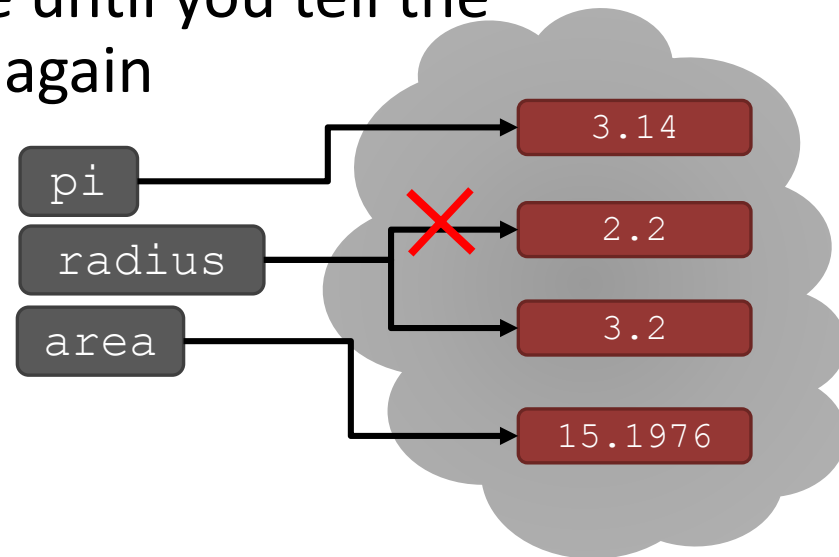
an assignment
** expression on the right, evaluated to a value*
** variable name on the left*
** equivalent expression to $radius = radius + 1$*
is $radius += 1$

CHANGING BINDINGS

- can **re-bind** variable names using new assignment statements
- previous value may still stored in memory but lost the handle for it
- value for area does not change until you tell the computer to do the calculation again

```
pi = 3.14
radius = 2.2
area = pi*(radius**2)
radius = radius+1
```

+ = ← something



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