

DISCUSSION 00

Welcome to CS 61A 🎉

We'll get started on Berkeley time!

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ABOUT ME

- Junior
- From Guangdong, China (I speak Cantonese as well!)
- Majors: Computer Science, Molecular & Cell Biology (neurobiology track)
- 4th semester on staff!
- Love trying out oat latte at different places / wandering on the street / cooking
- Fun fact: I never thought about majoring in CS until I took 61A (initially for cognitive science)

ABOUT YOU 🙄🙄

- Break into groups of 4
- Spend 5-8 minutes just talking with one another
- If you need some ideas on what to talk about: names/pronouns, years/majors, hometowns, hobbies, things you did in the summer, fun facts/anything
- Try to remember each other's name and face!
- At the end, we'll go around and one representative from each group will introduce:
 - Everyone's name from your group
 - 3 things you have in common

LOGISTICS

- Sections
 - Lab: 5-6:30 pm @ Soda 275
 - Content review + lab assignments
 - 2 pts each - 1 pt for attendance, 1 pt for submission
 - You may leave early if you finish early - remember to check off with me before leaving!
 - Discussion: 6:30-8pm @ Soda 310
 - Content review + worksheets
 - 1 pt each for attendance
 - Both are environments for you to collaborate with one another and ask for help as needed!
 - If you can't come due to extenuating circumstances, let me know in advance so I can mark you as "excused absence". If you have enough participation points and prefer not to come, just chill :)

LOGISTICS

- Lecture: 1-2pm @ Wheeler 150
 - Come if you can! It'll be fun >:)
 - If not, please watch recordings before coming to section!
- Section swap - check out [Ed post #55!](#)
- Introducing [Ed Discussion](#)

LOGISTICS - ABOUT THIS WEEK

- Discussion 0 (today)
 - Spoiler - it does not count for attendance ._.
 - All future discussions will count!
- Lab 0 (today)
 - Due next Wednesday 08/31
 - Take-home assignment, no designated lab section
 - Unlike other labs, submission for lab 0 is worth 2 pts, and it cannot be dropped
 - It helps you get setup and learn how to submit assignments
 - Come to office hours if you need help!
 - Try to finish the lab before coming to our next lab on Monday!

NAVIGATING CS61A.ORG

This is also the first part of our discussion worksheet!

NAVIGATING OUR SECTION WEBSITE 🌴

go.cs61a.org/mingxiao-index

USEFUL LINKS

- edstem.org/us/courses/25379/discussion/ - We use Ed for announcements and it's an easy way to get questions answered about logistics/content/assignments
- oh.cs61a.org - The OH website!
 - If you're at an in-person OH session, you can make a ticket on the queue to flag for a staff member to come help you
 - If you're attending virtual OH, go to <https://oh.cs61a.org/appointments> to schedule a 1:1 meeting with a staff member
 - There's also [advising OH](#) for non-content, advising questions, and require appointments
- okpy.org - This is where you can double-check that assignments got submitted correctly
- go.cs61a.org/extensions - This is where you can request an extension due to extenuating circumstances
- go.cs61a.org/accommodation-appts - This is where you can schedule an appointment to talk about course accommodations, should you need any
- sections.cs61a.org - This is where you'll find information about sections (section times, attendance, etc.)
- cs61a.org/resources/ - Past exams and other helpful study resources!
- code.cs61a.org/ - In-browser interpreters (especially helpful when we move to new languages)

NOTES FROM WELCOME SURVEY ✨

- welcoming/relaxing environment
- in-depth explanations, visualiations & examples
- individual support/office-hour like approach
- reasonable pace
- music during Berkeley time
- music during problem-solving time
- weekly to-do
- guidance for debugging
- communication
- What is your opinion of the purpose of programming?
- How to learn python as a beginners?

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS? 🤔

LOST ON THE MOON 🌕

Your spaceship has just crashed on the light side of the moon. You were scheduled to rendezvous with a mother ship 200 miles away on the lighted surface of the moon, but the rough landing has ruined your ship and destroyed all the equipment on board except for the 15 items listed below (note: you are able to consume food/water/medicine inside your space suit).

Your crew's survival depends on reaching the mother ship, so you must choose the most critical items available for the 200-mile trip. Your task is to rank the 15 items in terms of their importance for survival. Place a number 1 by the most important item, number 2 by the second most important, and so on, through number 15, the least important.

- 5 min to work individually
- 10 min to discuss with your previous group

NASA RANKINGS

1. **Oxygen** - Most pressing survival need
2. **Water** - Replacement for tremendous liquid loss on lighted side
3. **Stellar map (of the moon's constellations)** - Primary means of navigation
4. **Food concentrate** - Efficient means of supplying energy requirements
5. **Solar-powered FM Receiver-Transmitter** - For communication with mother ship; but FM requires line-of-sight transmission and short ranges
6. **50 feet of nylon rope** - Useful in scaling cliffs, tying injured together
7. **First-aid kit containing injection needles** - Needles for vitamins, medicines, etc., will fit special aperture in NASA space suits
8. **Parachute Silk** - Protection from sun's rays

NASA RANKINGS

9. **Self-inflating life raft** - CO2 bottle in military raft may be used for propulsion
10. **Signal flares** - Distress signal when mother ship is sighted
11. **Two .45 caliber pistols** - Possible means of self-propulsion
12. **One case of dehydrated milk** - Bulkier duplication of food concentrate
13. **Solar-powered portable heating unit** - Not needed unless on dark side
14. **Magnetic compass** - Magnetic field on moon is not polarized; worthless for navigation
15. **Box of matches** - No oxygen to sustain flame, virtually worthless

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Take advantage of all the resources available
 - Office hours, tutorial sections, lecture, video walkthroughs of exams, past exams
 - Esp. discussion and lab sections - oftentimes attendance at these sections is a pretty strong indicator of how someone does in the class
 - Difficult class with lots of material but most resources of any class at Berkeley
- Start assignments early!
 - It's very common to get stuck on problems, and either need to give them some breathing room or ask for help (this applies to CS in general not just this class)
 - Also office hours tend to get very busy the day assignments are due

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Keep on top of attending lecture and sections
 - It probably sounds obvious, but it can be so easy to decide to just not watch lecture for a day and then start falling behind
 - It's totally fine if you're a bit confused after lecture - that's what sections are for!
 - That being said, you're still expected to attend lectures/watching recordings before coming to sections
- Read the textbook to familiarize yourself with the materials before lectures
 - This is especially helpful if you are not familiar with the content beforehand
 - A rough understanding will help you a lot when watching the lectures (and make you feel better!)
 - I did this when I took 61A and it worked well!

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Prioritize your physical and mental health
 - no class is worth it (not that this is a good reason but you will be able to think through problems better if you're well-taken care of)
- Don't stress
 - This is hard, but please try to not stress out. This course is designed to help you out so always reach out to me or anyone else on staff if you ever need to talk or get advice
 - Everyone struggles in this class including every staff member when they took it
 - Lab + HW drops, participation points, and extra credit are all here to help

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS? 🤔

ATTENDANCE! 🤠

go.cs61a.org/mingxiao-att

- Also linked on our section website!
- Once again, discussion today does not count for your actual attendance score, but feel free to familiarize yourself with the format first!