

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)
- 5th semester on staff!
- Love cooking / strolling around / playing PvZ 2 (recently)
- 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 over the break, 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: Tue 9:30 - 11 am @ Soda 271
 - Content review + lab assignments
 - Attendance is required, unless you finish the lab before section (details TBA)
 - 1 pt each, capped at 10
 - You may leave early if you finish early - remember to check off with me before leaving!
 - Discussion: Thu 9:30 - 11 am @ Soda 320
 - Content review + worksheets
 - 1 pt each for attendance, capped at 10
 - Both are environments for you to collaborate with one another and ask for help as needed!

LOGISTICS

- Sections (cont.)
 - If you can't come due to extenuating circumstances, let me know in advance so I can mark you as "excused absence" - this won't hurt your attendance score.
- Lecture: 2-3pm @ Wheeler 150
 - Come if you can! It'll be fun >:)
 - If not, please watch recordings before coming to section!
- Introducing Ed Discussion

LOGISTICS - ABOUT THIS WEEK

- Discussion 0
 - Here we are :)
- Lab 0
 - Due next Wednesday 01/25
 - Take-home assignment, no designated lab section
 - It helps you get set-up and learn how to submit assignments
 - Come to office hours today/post on Ed if you need help!
 - I'll have online office hour this afternoon 2-3
 - 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

LEARNING COOPERATIVELY 🙌

- See the syllabus for more details
- During lab, you can share anything you want as long as you are all learning
- For a project that allows partners, you can share anything with your partner.
 - Normally we allow groups of 2 to work on projects. You may work alone if you want, but we encourage you to work with a partner :)
 - This lab and sections next week are a good time to find partners! The first project is coming up week 3 :o
 - You don't have to be in the same section as your project partner

USEFUL LINKS

- edstem.org/us/courses/34756/discussion/ - We use Ed for announcements and it's an easy way to get questions answered about logistics/content/assignments
- oh.cs61a.org - The office hour website!
 - in-person OH - make a ticket on the queue to flag for a staff member to come help you
 - online OH - TBA (for this week it's queue-based, no appointment needed)
 - There's also [advising OH](#) for non-content, advising questions, and require appointments
- okpy.org - double-check that assignments got submitted correctly
- go.cs61a.org/extensions - request an extension due to extenuating circumstances
- go.cs61a.org/accommodation-appts - schedule an appointment to talk about course accommodations, should you need any
- sections.cs61a.org - information about sections (section times, attendance, etc.)
- cs61a.org/resources/ - past exams and other helpful study resources!
- code.cs61a.org/ - in-browser interpreters (supports all languages covered in 61A)

NOTES FROM WELCOME SURVEY ✨

What are some things you would like me to do or avoid in order to make your semester more worthwhile?

- go over worksheet & clarify things & post solutions
- explain things slowly and thoroughly
- be approachable
- review concepts in lecture
- be responsive to emails
- be inclusive - of course we are from various background, but we are here to learn together!
- work in groups
- ice breakers

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 one 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!
- For this and all future sections, please submit the attendance form by the end of the day!

