

Part 2. A simple bitmap using byte-arrays

In Python, types that define an addition operation, usually also define a multiplication operation that enables intuitive applications. For some data types, addition corresponds to concatenation. (For other data types it means something else.) For example, as you learned in Module 1, two strings can be concatenated by “adding” them together. In the same way, two byte-arrays can be concatenated by adding them together. Multiplication becomes then the repetitive addition of the same byte-array a specified number of times: for example if the variable `pixel` contains a byte-array, then `pixel * 3` is the same as `pixel + pixel + pixel`, or three identical copies of `pixel` concatenated.

Bitmaps are files that describe a figure by specifying the color to be used for each pixel. They have dimensions in pixels: for example 200 pixels wide x 300 pixels high. As illustrated in Fig. 1, these files have two main sections: the header, where the details necessary for interpretation of the file are included, and the data, where the information for all the pixels is included.

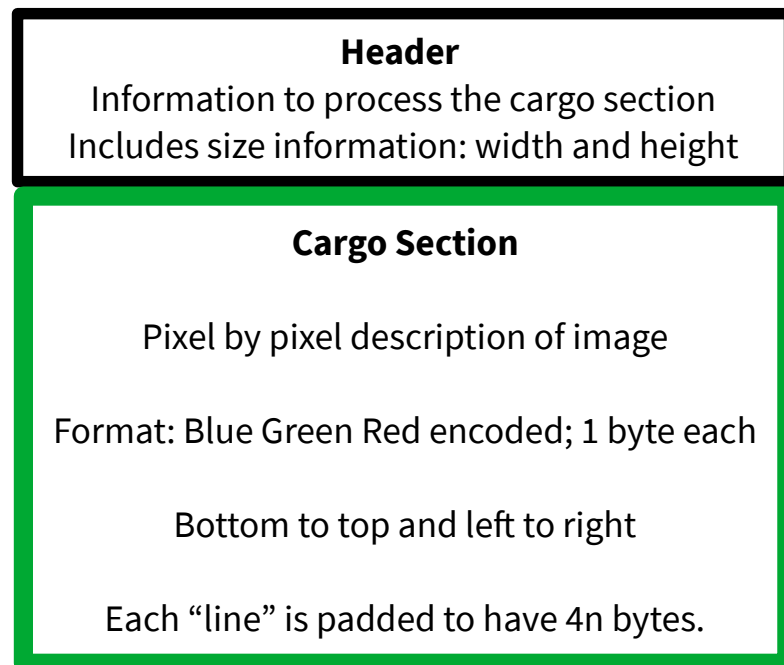


Figure 1. Overview of the main two sections of a bitmap file. Notice that the size of the image is defined in the header.

Two additional files are included with this assignment to help you with this project as well as two template files you’ll use to code. The templates include some code to handle the minutiae of putting together the header section and saving the file. We’ll cover the tools to perform those tasks later in the semester but for now they are provided. The template also includes a section labeled “# `ToDo`” indicating where your code goes.

The first additional file, `utilities_BMP.py`, provides the functionality to specify the header and is used in the template file. Even though this is a simple task, it is somewhat tedious. So I have provided it. The second file, `colors_BMP.py`, includes information for the colors that can be used. Each color is packed as a byte-array and is labeled with an approximate description of how they’ll be perceived. By using the

import instruction at the beginning of the template file (we'll cover that later), they are available in the main file and can be chosen by name when you code: open this file to see the colors available.

Task 2.1. Write code to generate a “tower” 110 pixels wide and 1200 pixels tall that uses 4 colors: brown at the top, salmon in the second layer, dark orchid in the third layer and papaya in the bottom layer. See Figure 2. Do not use loops or conditionals in your code.

The image is created by concatenating pixels to the variable `image_binary`, which already contains the header. When specifying the pixels, each horizontal line has to contain a multiple of 4 bytes. Notice that each pixel contributes 3 bytes (24 bits). Hence, if the figure is 50 pixels wide, for example, each horizontal line has to be padded with “useless bytes” to reach the next multiple of 4: for a total of 152 bytes in this case. A padding byte is available for your use: `bmp.pad_byte`. This image does not require or use separators between horizontal lines as they are all concatenated together.

Once you are done open the file `my_bitmap.bmp` with any software capable of displaying images so you can check your work: firefox, photoshop, safari or paint for example. You can also verify the details of the figure by checking its properties to verify its size. Make the code general enough so that other sizes can be used. Rename the first image using your NetID as `[NetID]_tower_1.bmp`. Now, generate a 251 x 500 tower by choosing any 4 colors and label it `[NetID]_tower_2.bmp`. (Do not use white or black for the top or bottom layers to facilitate visualization.) Submit your code and the two images. Name your script `[NetID]_tower.py`



Figure 2. “Tower” to be generated for task 2.1.

Task 2.2. Write code to generate an image 900 pixels wide and 1100 pixels tall with a “plus sign” that uses 2 colors: dim grey for the background and steel blue for the plus sign. The thickness of the sign should be 100 pixels. See Figure 3.

When specifying the pixels, each horizontal line has to contain a multiple of 4 bytes as in the previous task. Once you are done open the file `my_other_bitmap.bmp` with any software capable of displaying images so you can check your work: firefox, photoshop, safari or paint for example. Make the code general enough so that other sizes can be used. Rename the image using your NetID as `[NetID]_plus_sign_1.bmp`. Generate a 550 x 1000 “plus_sign” that is 50 pixels thick by choosing any 2 colors and label it `[NetID]_plus_sign_2.bmp`. (Do not use white or black for the background to facilitate visualization.) Submit your code and the two images. Name your script `[NetID]_plus_sign.py`.

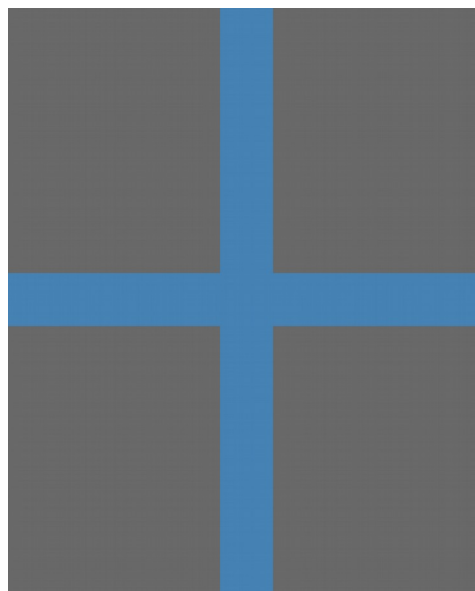


Figure 3. Plus sign as expected for task 2.2.