

CS3101.3

Lecture 2



```
def getSolutionCosts (navigationCode):  
    fuelStopCost = 15  
    extraComputationCost = 8  
    thisAlgorithmBecomingSkynetCost = 999999999  
    waterCrossingCost = 45
```

GENETIC ALGORITHMS TIP:
ALWAYS INCLUDE THIS IN YOUR FITNESS FUNCTION

Source: <http://xkcd.com/534/>

Agenda

- Homework 2
- Jumping into a few practical examples
- Finish dictionaries
- Sorting, Custom Comparators
- Parsing a CSV files to produce a webpage
 - In class exercise (also your hw)
- Functions
- Command line arguments

Questions? Homework, general?



Exercise 1: Producing a webpage from a CSV file

- In this exercise your goal is to create an html page by opening and parsing the Simpsons CSV file:
 - http://www1.cs.columbia.edu/~joshua/cs3101spring09/code/simpsons_diet.csv
- Step 0. See the lecture slides for help!
- Step 1. You may either download this file manually and read it from disk, or open it directly using the URLLIB package.
- Step 2. Parse simpsons_diet.csv either manually by splitting or using the CSV package.
- Step 3. Open a new file for writing “simpsons.html”
- Step 4. In any way you choose, parse the simpsons_diet.csv file and format it with html. This doesn't have to be fancy, just show me you understand how to access the fields of the csv file.

```
Homer Simpson,Dinner,Broccoli,2,So long cruel world!  
Lisa Simpson,Lunch,Kale,2,Einstein's favorite  
Lisa Simpson,Dinner,Tofu,4,Animals are cute!  
Klang,Snack,Humans,40, *how*to*cook*for*forty?*humans*  
Montgomery Burns,Snack, Life Extension Elixir,1,Excellent...
```

```
<html><body>  
Montgomery Burns had a  
  <b> Life Extension Elixir</b>  
for a <b>Snack</b>  
...
```

This weeks extra credit

For a **very large** triangle in the form:

```
40
73 11
52 10 40
26 53 06 34
10 51 87 86 90
```

Compute the maximum path value beginning at the top, and proceeding by single vertical or adjacent steps to the bottom (i.e., the path in blue).

<http://www1.cs.columbia.edu/~joshua/cs3101spring09/code/triangle.txt>

Exercise 2

- Briefly implement two strategies to tackle the extra credit problem
- Write a script which takes a command line parameter indicating the chosen strategy
- Output the maximum path value computed with that approach
- For this exercise you will be graded only on the correctness of your program, not whether your strategies actually find the optimal answer

Sequence basics

- Sequence concatenation
 - sequences of the same type can be concatenated with the (+) operator
 - note type references to the sequence itself (i.e., a list or a tuple) – NOT the contents
 - likewise (less commonly) you can assemble multiple copies using (*)
- Membership testing
 - Use “x in sequence” – returns True / False
 - More general in the case of strings, checking whether “x” is any substring of sequence

Subsequences and Slicing

- Given a sequence, a subsequence may be extracted via slicing
- Form: `s[x:y]` where `s` is a sequence, `x` is the lower bound (inclusive) and `y` is the upper bound (exclusive)
- if `x` is less than `y` the extract will be empty, if `y` is greater than `len(s)` it will be the upper bound
- `x` can be omitted if it's 0, i.e. `s[:5]`
- `y` can be omitted, in which case it will be the upper bound

More slicing syntax

- Slicing can also use the syntax `s[x:y:n]`, where `n` is the stride (i.e., step) of the slice
- the same as saying `n` is the positional difference between successive elements
- think `s[x:y] == s[x:y:1]`
- think `s[x:y:2]` give me every second element in the range
- consider `s[::3]` – every third element in the sequence
- indices may also be negative – `s[::-1]` reverses a list

Sorting sequences

- A sort method on a list causes elements to be sorted in place
- General syntax
 - `L.sort(cmp=cmp, key=None, reverse=False)`
 - `cmp` is a pairwise comparison function, we'll see how to write those. `cmp` is the default
 - these return `-1,0,1`
 - `key` is `None` by default
 - Search the web for Python TIMSORT if for the technical details
- In general, passing arguments to sort slow down the process, later lectures will cover the decorate, sort, undecorate pattern
-

Quick word on sets

- Useful containers – word on program consistency
- Methods
 - Non-mutating
 - (set).intersection(another set)
 - (set).issubset..
 - (set).issuperset...
 - Mutating
 - (set).add
 - (set).clear
- Operators are overloaded for the non-mutating methods: e.g., Set1&Set2 for instance is intersection_update
- Careful...

Dictionaries

- Dictionaries are containers, so built in functions like `len()` will work (returning the number of key value pairs)
- Dictionaries are iterable (but only the keys by default, and in arbitrary order)
 - `min(myDictionary)`
 - `max(myDictionary)`
 - returns the smallest and largest keys
- Membership:
 - if key in dictionary
 - can also use `has_key` but the above is better
- Accessing: `d['x']` returns a value or `KeyError`
- Assignment `d['x'] = 5` creates or reassigns

Major dictionary methods

- If `d` is a dictionary:
- `d.keys()` – returns a list of the keys in arbitrary order
- `d.values()` – returns a list of the values in arbitrary order
- `d.items()` – returns a list of key / value pair tuples
- `d.iter(items / keys / values)`
- `d.clear()`
- `d.popitem()` – removes and returns an arbitrary item
- `d.pop(key)`
- `d.setdefault(k[,x])` – returns `d[k]` if the key exists, otherwise sets `d[k]` equal to `x` and returns `x`

List comprehensions

- Common use of the for loop:
 - inspect each item in an iterable
 - build a new list by appending the result of an expression
 - general syntax [expression for target in iterable clauses]
 - `result = []`
 - for item in sequence:
 - `result.append(item + 5)`
 - `result = [item + 5 for item in sequence]`
 - `result = [item + 5 for item in sequence if item > 3]`
 - `result = [x+y for x in seq1 for y in seq2]`
- Notes
 - list comprehensions are expressions rather than a block of statements – so you use it almost anywhere
 - performance is high due to the underlying implementation
 - elegance – but NEVER sacrifice readability
 - general rule: sort is ok, long and complex skip it

Functions

- In Python a function is a group of statements that execute upon calling
- Functions are objects that are handled like anything else, i.e.,
 - they may be passed as arguments to other functions
 - they may be assigned dynamically at runtime
 - they may return other functions as their result
 - they may be keys in a dictionary or items in a sequence *mapping trick*

Basic examples

Sorting and Comparisons

- `sorted()` vs. `list.sort()`
 - `sorted` is general
 - returns a new sorted list from any iterable
- `list.sort()` is a list only method
 - alters the list in place
- Standard comparisons (`==`) understands numbers, strings, etc
- What if you need to do a special comparison?

```
print sorted([5, 2, 3, 1,  
4])
```

```
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
```

```
print sorted(['b','a', 'c'])  
['a', 'b', 'c']
```

```
print sorted([[2,2],  
[1,2]])
```

```
[[1, 2], [2, 2]]
```

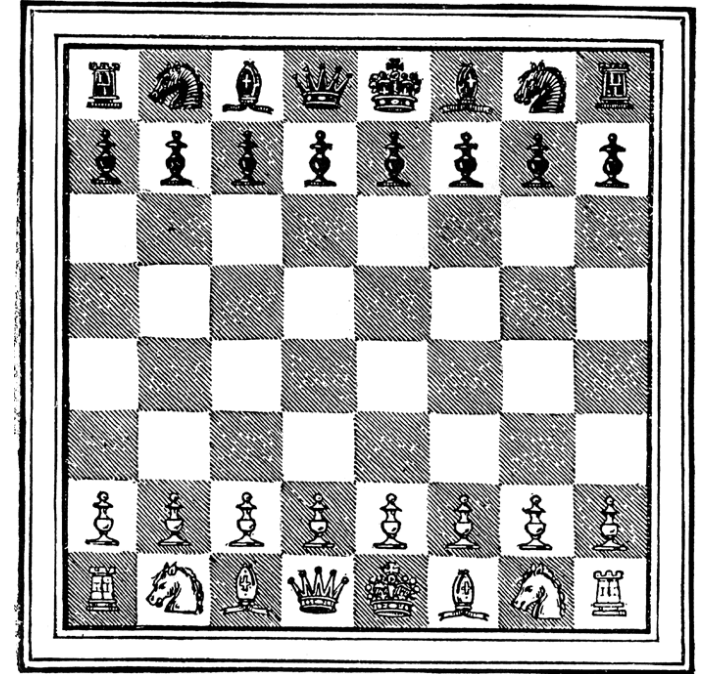
Custom Comparisons

- `cmp()` is the built-in function that compares two objects, `x` and `y`
 - returns a negative number if `x < y`
 - returns 0 if they're equal
 - returns a positive number if `x > y`
- You can define your own arbitrary comparison function

```
def food_compare(x, y):  
    if 'donut' in x:  
        return 1  
    elif x == y: #use standard  
        comparison  
        return 0  
    else:  
        return -1  
  
print sorted(['broccoli', 'duffbeer',  
             'donut'])  
['broccoli', 'donut', 'duffbeer']  
  
print sorted(['broccoli', 'duffbeer', \  
             'donut'], food_compare)  
['duffbeer', 'broccoli', 'donut']
```

Using Dictionaries as Sparse Data Structures

```
def main():  
    board = {}  
    # a chess board  
    # say we only want to  
    # keep track of the  
    # position of the kings  
    board[(0, 4)] =  
    "LIGHT_KING"
```



Discussion:

Can you compare the memory usage of this representation against a matrix using lists? (Chess boards are 8x8)

Ignore the size of the dictionary and list support code (becomes insignificant at large sizes)

Dictionaries – methods

- Keys and values, testing for a key

```
simpsons = {'bart' : 7, 'marge' : '41', 'homer' : '42', 'lisa' : 6}
```

```
print simpsons.keys()  
['homer', 'lisa', 'bart', 'marge']
```

```
print simpsons.values()  
['42', 6, 7, '41']
```

```
print simpsons.items()  
[('homer', '42'), ('lisa', 6), ('bart', 7), ('marge', '41')]
```

```
simpsons['barney']  
KeyError: 'barney'
```

```
if 'barney' in simpsons:  
    ...
```

Using Dictionaries as Records

```
import random
def main():
    homer['donutSupply'] = 5
    homer['hairsRemaining'] = 4
    homer['noises'] = ['Munch', 'Crunch', 'MMM Donut', 'Aghggh']
    while homer['donutSupply'] > 0:
        homer['donutSupply'] -= 1
        print random.choice(homer['noises'])
main()
→
MMM Donut
Aghggh
```

Discussion:

Any questions on dictionaries before we move

What if you had to sort a

- Dictionaries cannot be directly sorted – a mapping has no order

```
simpsons = {'bart' : 7, 'marge' : '41', 'homer' : '42', 'lisa' : 6}
```

```
print sorted(simpsons) #sorts by keys  
['bart', 'homer', 'lisa', 'marge']
```

```
from operator import itemgetter  
print sorted(simpsons.iteritems(), key=itemgetter(1),  
             reverse=True)
```

```
[('homer', '42'), ('marge', '41'), ('bart', 7), ('lisa', 6)]
```

```
#if you just want the keys (sorted by value)
```

```
x = sorted(simpsons.iteritems(), key=itemgetter(1),  
           reverse=True)
```

```
print [obj[0] for obj in x]
```

```
['homer', 'marge', 'bart', 'lisa']
```

Tonight's theme: Files and

- Goal:
 - Produce a webpage from this CSV file
 - In class exercise shortly

```
Character,Meal,Ate,Quantity,Comment
Barney Gumble,Breakfast,Duff Beer,1,I could've gone to
Harvard
Duffman,Breakfast,Power bar,4,Duffman – can't breathe!
Duffman,Lunch,Protein shake,5,Duffman – has the power!
Homer Simpson,Snack,Donut – Jelly,1,Mmm Donut
Homer Simpson,Snack,Donut – Cream,1,Mmm Donut
Homer Simpson,Snack,Donut – Strawberry,1,Mmm Donut
Homer Simpson,Dinner,Broccoli,2,So long cruel world
Lisa Simpson,Breakfast,Oranges,1,Satisfying
Lisa Simpson,Lunch,Kale,2,Einstein's favorite
Lisa Simpson,Dinner,Tofu,4,Animals are cute!
Klang,Snack,Humans,40, *how*to*cook*for*forty?
*humans*
```

Montgomery Burns,Snack, Life Extension Elixer,

Discussion: Advanced file functionality (seeking, etc) is outside our



File I/O

- Say (for some inexplicable reason) you needed to parse this CSV file to extract Klong's comment
 - First, let's get that line...

```
#read the entire file into a list, one line per entry
lines = open(r"c:\simpsons_diet.csv").readlines()
#for each line / entry in the list
for line in lines:
    if line.startswith("Klong"):
        print line
```

```
...
Lisa Simpson,Dinner,Tofu,4,Animals are cute!
Klong,Snack,Humans,40, *how*to*cook*for*forty?*humans*
Montgomery Burns,Snack, Life Extension Elixir,1,Excellent...
...
```

Discussion: read only is the default behavior

Basic string manipulation

Klang,Snack,Humans,40, *how*to*cook*for*forty?

```
line = "Klang,Snack,Humans,40," \
      "*how*to*cook*for*forty?*humans*"
columns = line.split(",")
print columns
['Klang', 'Snack', 'Humans', '40', '*how*to*cook*for*forty?*humans*']
comment = columns [-1]
print comment
*how*to*cook*for*forty?*humans*
cleaned = comment.replace("*", " ").strip()
print cleaned [0].upper() + cleaned [1:] + "."
How to cook for forty? humans.
```

Basic File I/O – writing

- Now let's write that to a file
cleaned = "How to cook for forty?
Humans"

```
output = open(r"c:\klang.txt", 'w')
output.write(cleaned + "\n") #new line
# manually close the file – this happens
# automatically when
# the file object is garbage collected
output.close()
```

Basic File I/O – writing

- Say we wanted to write one word per line

cleaned = “How to cook for forty?

Humans”

```
output = open(r"c:\klang.txt", 'w')
words = cleaned.split()
output.writelines("\n".join(words))
output.close()
klang.txt ->
how
to
cook
...
```

Discussion: note the ‘w’, the “.join, and the default behavior of the split() statement

Join statements

Using iteration

```
for line in lines:  
    f.write(line + "\n")
```

Using join

```
f.write(" ".join(lines))
```

Quick examples

```
foo = ['homer', 'lisa', 'bart']  
print foo  
['homer', 'lisa', 'bart']
```

```
print " ".join(foo)  
homer lisa bart
```

```
x = " loves "  
print x.join(foo)  
homer loves lisa loves bart
```

Let's try reading with the CSV library

```
import csv
reader = csv.reader(open(r'c:
\simpsons_diet.csv'), \
                    delimiter=',', quotechar='"')
for row in reader:
```

```
...
[Barney Gumble,Breakfast,Duff Beer,1,I could've gone to Harvard]
[Duffman,Breakfast,Power bar,4,Duffman - can't breathe!]
[Duffman,Lunch,Protein shake,5,Duffman - has the power!]
...
```

I/O – Reading directly into variables

```
import csv
reader = csv.reader(open(r'c:
\simpsons_diet.csv'), \
                    delimiter=',', quotechar='"')
for char, meal, ate, quantity, comment in
    reader:
```

```
...
Lisa Simpson had 4 Tofu for Dinner
Klang had 40 Humans for Snack
Montgomery Burns had 1 Life Extension Elixir for
Snack
```

I/O – and now writing with

The **writer** function creates a CSV writer object, which converts values to strings and escapes them properly.

```
import csv
reader = csv.reader(open(r'c:\simpsons_diet.csv'), \
                    delimiter=',', quotechar='"')
out = open(r'c:\simpsons_new.csv', "wb")
writer = csv.writer(out, delimiter=',', quotechar='"')
for row in reader:
    writer.writerow(row)
new = ['Chronos', 'Snack', 'Klang', '1', 'The humans made
him tasty!']
writer.writerow(new)
```

```
...
Klang,Snack,Humans,40, *how*to*cook*for*forty?*humans*
Montgomery Burns,Snack, Life Extension Elixer,1,Excellent...
Chronos, Snack, Klang, The humans made him tasty!
```

How about reading that CSV file from a network?

```
import urllib, csv

#grab our csv file from the network
url = r"http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~joshua/"
url += r"cs3101spring09/code/"
      simpsons_diet.csv"
simpsons = urllib.urlopen(url)

reader = csv.reader(simpsons, delimiter=',',
                    quotechar='"')
for char, meal, ate, quantity, comment in
```


In class exercise (also one of your hw problems)

- Say we needed to produce a webpage from this CSV log file.
- How would you go about it?

Goal:

```
<html><body>
<h1>Homer Simpson</h1><p>
Ate <b>2</b> pieces of
Broccoli. <p>
So long cruel world!<p>...
```

```
Homer Simpson,Dinner,Broccoli,2,So long cruel world!
Lisa Simpson,Lunch,Kale,2,Einstein's favorite
Lisa Simpson,Dinner,Tofu,4,Animals are cute!
Klang,Snack,Humans,40, *how*to*cook*for*forty?*humans*
Montgomery Burns,Snack, Life Extension Elixer,1,Excellent...
```

Discussion: Which methods and data structures might be employed?

In class exercise (also one of your hw problems)

- We'll need
 - to read the CSV file
 - to open an output file
 - to parse the lines of the CSV and format with HTML

Goal:

```
<html><body>
<h1>Homer Simpson</h1><p>
Ate <b>2</b> pieces of
Broccoli. <p>
So long cruel world!<p>...
```

```
Homer Simpson,Dinner,Broccoli,2,So long cruel world!
Lisa Simpson,Lunch,Kale,2,Einstein's favorite
Lisa Simpson,Dinner,Tofu,4,Animals are cute!
Klang,Snack,Humans,40, *how*to*cook*for*forty?*humans*
Montgomery Burns,Snack, Life Extension Elixir,1,Excellent...
```

Reference Code

```
#read the entire file into a list, one
  line per entry
lines = \
open(r"c:
  \simpsons_diet.csv").readlines()
#for each line / entry in the list
for line in lines:
    if line.startswith("Klang"):
        print line
```

```
output = open(r"c:\klang.txt", 'w')
output.write(cleaned + "\n") #new
  line
# manually close the file – this
  happens
# automatically when
# the file object is garbage
  collected
  close
```

```
line = "Klang,Snack,Humans,40," \
      "*how*to*cook*for*forty?"
      *humans*
columns = line.split(",")
print columns
['Klang', 'Snack', 'Humans', '40',
  '*how*to*cook*for*forty?'
  *humans*]
comment = columns [-1]
print comment
*how*to*cook*for*forty?*humans*
cleaned = comment.replace("*", "
").strip()
print cleaned [0].upper() + cleaned
[1:] + "."
```

Discussion: Take 10 minutes and try to sketch it out – I'll come around and help out

Assorted utility functions

Syntax	Semantics
<code>import os.path</code>	Import the OS module
<code>os.path.exists("bob.txt")</code>	Exists test
<code>os.path.isfile(r"c:\bob.txt")</code>	File test
<code>os.path.isdir("bob")</code>	Directory test
<code>os.getcwd()</code>	Current directory
<code>os.path.join(currentdir, "images")</code>	System independent path
<code>os.path.walk(rootdir,f,arg)</code>	Function to recursively parse directories

Discussion: note the 'r' preceding c:\bob.txt – raw string support to avoid escaping \’s

Functions

- Before we go in to functions, keep in mind:
 - Python's libraries are **HUGE**
 - Look before writing a function to perform a common task



Libraries Preview

<http://docs.python.org/library/>

- Out of the box:
 - Numeric and mathematical modules
 - Files and directory handling
 - Data persistence
 - Data compression and archiving
 - **File formats (csv, etc)**
 - Cryptographic services
 - Operating system hooks
 - Interprocess communication and threading
 - Internet data handling
 - Structured markup handling (html, xml, etc)
 - **Internet protocols (you name it)**
 - Multimedia services (presentation, manipulation)
 - Internationalization
 - GUIs
 - Debugging, profiling
 - Windows, Mac, *nix, Sun specific services

Functions 101



- Keep in mind
 - Dynamic typing and polymorphism
 - Mutable vs. Immutable parameters vs. call by reference / value

- Maximize
 - Leverage preexisting code
 - Your own code reuse
 - Procedural decomposition
 - Documentation
- Minimize
 - Redundancy
 - Errors

Discussion: Review: dynamic typing, polymorphism, by reference / by value

Functions – Polymorphism

```
def multiply(x, y):  
    return x * y
```

```
print multiply (2,4)  
8
```

```
print multiply (.5,2)  
1.0
```

```
print multiply("foo", 3)  
foofoofoo
```

```
def intersection(groupA, groupB):  
    result = []  
    for obj in groupA:  
        if obj in groupB:  
            result.append(obj)  
    return result
```

```
print intersection([1,2,3], (1,3,4))  
[1, 3]
```

```
foo = {"homer" : "donuts", "lisa" :  
       "kale"}  
bar = ["homer", "kale"]  
print intersection(foo, bar)  
['homer']
```

Discussion: Notice the list and tuples?

Rewriting intersection with a list comprehension

```
def intersection(groupA, groupB):  
    result = []  
    for obj in groupA:  
        if obj in groupB:  
            result.append(obj)  
    return result
```

Discussion: How can we make this more elegant?

Rewriting intersection with a list comprehension

```
def intersection(groupA, groupB):  
    result = []  
    for obj in groupA:  
        if obj in groupB:  
            result.append(obj)  
    return result
```

```
def intersection(groupA, groupB):  
    return [obj for obj in groupA if obj in
```

Python has built in sets



```
simpsons = set(["homer", "marge", "bart", "lisa"])  
philosophers = set(["aristotle", "sophocles", "homer"])
```

```
print simpsons.intersection(philosophers)  
set(['homer'])
```

```
print simpsons.union(philosophers)  
set(['homer', 'marge', 'aristotle', 'lisa', \  
    'sophocles', 'bart'])
```

```
print set(['homer']).issubset(philosophers)
```

Discussion: Other set operators: union, add, issuperset, issubset, etc

def is a statement

Legal in Python

```
import random

if random.randint(0,1):
    def func(x):
        return x + 1
else:
    def func(x):
        return x - 1

print func(1)

0
2
...
```

Why is this legal?

- Python statements are executable – we have runtime, but not compile time in the C sense
- Functions are objects like everything else in Python
- Assignment is legal as well
 - `foo = func`
 - `print foo(1)`

Discussion: `randint(0,1)` --> 0 evaluates to False, 1 to True

Functions – pass by reference

Mutable (lists, dictionaries, classes) by

```
def rev(x):  
    x.reverse()  
  
def addOne(x):  
    x += 1  
  
def main():  
    myList = ["a", "b"]  
    rev(myList)  
    print myList
```

```
main()  
['b', 'a']
```

Immutable (numbers, strings) by value

```
def rev(x):  
    x.reverse()  
  
def addOne(x):  
    x += 1  
  
def main():  
    x = 5  
    addOne(x)  
    print x
```

```
main()  
5
```

Discussion: Similarity to Java

Recursion

returns the factorial of x

```
def fact(x): return (1 if x == 0 else x *  
fact(x-1))
```

equivalently...

```
def fact2(x):  
    if x == 0:  
        return 1  
    else:  
        return x *  
        fact2(x-1)
```

an iterative
solution

```
def fact3(x):  
    result = 1  
    while (x > 1):  
        result = result * x  
        x = x - 1  
    return result
```

Discussion: Question from last week: is vs. ==. Is (is) identity function, == (is) equality

Scoping: namespace resolution

- What's a namespace?
 - Defines a variables scope, the area in which it carries meaning
- Static, lexical scope
 - Scope is a function of program text
- General rules
 - Namespace binding happens as variables are declared
 - Names defined inside a def are visible only within that def, and do not clash with outsiders
 - Each call to a function creates a new local scope
 - You can explicitly access global variables with the global statement, but this is rare

Scoping: namespace

- Global scope:
 - Each module is namespace in which variables can be created
 - These are visible to the outside world
 - Global scope is limited in span to a single file only
- Variable resolution:
 - 1. Local (function)
 - 2. Enclosing functions
 - 3. Global (module)
 - 4. Built-in (python)

```
open = 5
print open
5
open("foo.txt") #???
TypeError: 'int' object is not
callable
```

```
import math
pi = 3.14
print math.pi
3.14159265359
print pi
3.14
```

```
# global scope
x = 8
def foo(y):
    # local scope
    z = x + y
    return z

print foo(2)
Global names: x, fn
Local names: y, z
```

Discussion: Careful! Local scope wins: you can override built in fns

Command line arguments

- Each argument passed to the program ends up in `sys.argv`, which is just a list
- The first item is always the name of the module
- Arguments are separated by spaces

```
#multiply.py
import sys
for arg in sys.argv:
    print arg
x = sys.argv[1]
y = sys.argv[2]
print x * y

$ python multiply.py 5 2
10
```

Quick example

```
#getSyllables.py
import sys
def main():
    if len(sys.argv) != 2:
        print 'Invalid Input'
        print 'Usage: python getSyllables.py  
yourWord'
    else:
        word = sys.argv[1]
```

Exercise 1: Producing a webpage from a CSV file

- In this exercise your goal is to create an html page by opening and parsing the Simpsons CSV file:
 - http://www1.cs.columbia.edu/~joshua/cs3101spring09/code/simpsons_diet.csv
- Step 0. See the lecture slides for help!
- Step 1. You may either download this file manually and read it from disk, or open it directly using the URLLIB package.
- Step 2. Parse simpsons_diet.csv either manually by splitting or using the CSV package.
- Step 3. Open a new file for writing “simpsons.html”
- Step 4. In any way you choose, parse the simpsons_diet.csv file and format it with html. This doesn't have to be fancy, just show me you understand how to access the fields of the csv file.

```
Homer Simpson,Dinner,Broccoli,2,So long cruel world!  
Lisa Simpson,Lunch,Kale,2,Einstein's favorite  
Lisa Simpson,Dinner,Tofu,4,Animals are cute!  
Klang,Snack,Humans,40, *how*to*cook*for*forty?*humans*  
Montgomery Burns,Snack, Life Extension Elixir,1,Excellent...
```

```
<html><body>  
Montgomery Burns had a  
  <b> Life Extension Elixir</b>  
for a <b>Snack</b>  
...
```

This weeks extra credit

For a **very large** triangle in the form:

```
40
73 11
52 10 40
26 53 06 34
10 51 87 86 90
```

Compute the maximum path value beginning at the top, and proceeding by single vertical or adjacent steps to the bottom (i.e., the path in blue).

<http://www1.cs.columbia.edu/~joshua/cs3101spring09/code/triangle.txt>

Exercise 2

- Briefly implement two strategies to tackle the extra credit problem
- Write a script which takes a command line parameter indicating the chosen strategy
- Output the maximum path value computed with that approach
- For this exercise you will be graded only on the correctness of your program, not whether your strategies actually find the optimal answer