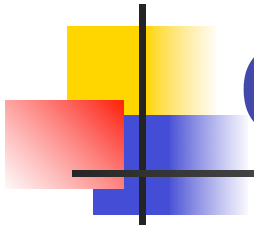
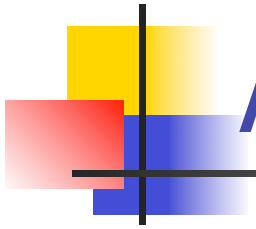


CS 11 Python track: lecture 1

- Preliminaries
  - Need a CS cluster account
    - http://acctreq.cms.caltech.edu/cgi-bin/request.cgi
  - Need to know UNIX
    - ITS tutorial linked from track home page
  - Track home page:
    - courses.cms.caltech.edu/cs11/material/python

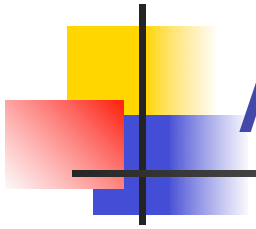


Administrative stuff

- See admin web page:

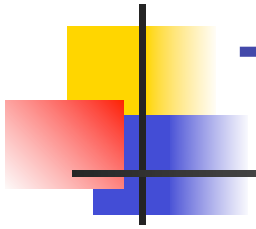
http://www.cs.caltech.edu/courses/cs11/material/python/admin.html

- Covers how to get software set up, how to submit labs, collaboration policy, grading policy, etc.



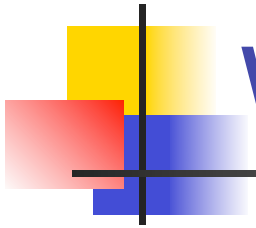
Assignments

- 1st assignment is posted now
- Due one week after class, midnight



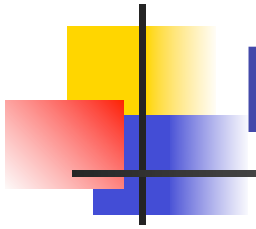
Textbook

- None required
- "Learning Python" by Mark Lutz
- Most people learn from online docs
  - links on web site



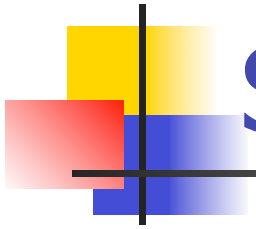
Why learn Python?

- "Scripting language"
- Very easy to learn
- Interactive front-end for C/C++ code
- Object-oriented
- Powerful, scalable
- Lots of libraries
- Fun to use



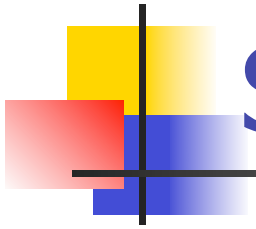
Python syntax

- Much of it is similar to C syntax
- Exceptions:
  - missing operators: `++`, `--`
  - no `{ }` for blocks; uses whitespace
  - different keywords
  - lots of extra features
  - no type declarations!



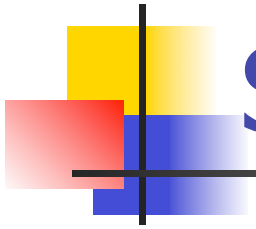
Starting and exiting Python

```
% python
Python 2.7.2 ...
>>> print "hello"
hello
>>> ^D
%
```



Simple data types

- Numbers
  - integer
  - floating-point
  - complex!
- Strings
  - characters are strings of length 1
- Booleans are `0`/`1` (or `False`/`True`)

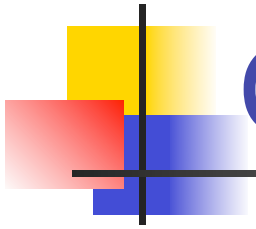


Simple data types: operators

- `+ - * / %` (like C)
- `+= -=` etc. (no `++` or `--`)
- Assignment using `=`
  - but semantics are different!

```
a = 1
a = "foo"   # OK
```

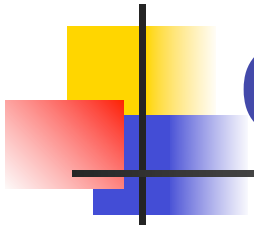
- Can also use `+` to concatenate strings



Compound data types (1)

- Lists:

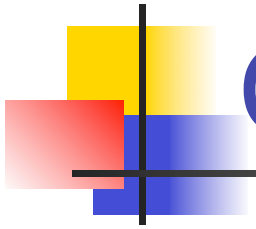
```
a = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
print a[1]  # 2
some_list = []
some_list.append("foo")
some_list.append(12)
print len(some_list)  # 2
```



Compound data types (2)

- Dictionaries:
  - like an array indexed by a string

```
d = { "foo" : 1, "bar" : 2 }
print d["bar"]    # 2
some_dict = {}
some_dict["foo"] = "yow!"
print some_dict.keys() # ["foo"]
```

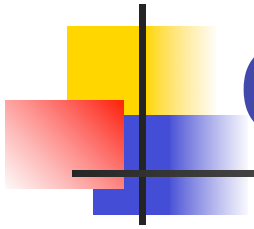


Compound data types (3)

- Tuples:

```
a = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
print a[1]  # 2
empty_tuple = ()
```

- Difference between lists and tuples:
  - lists are mutable; tuples are immutable
  - lists can expand, tuples can’t
  - tuples are slightly faster

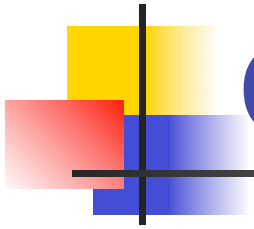


Compound data types (4)

- Objects:

```
class Thingy:
    # next week's lecture
t = Thingy()
t.method()
print t.field
```

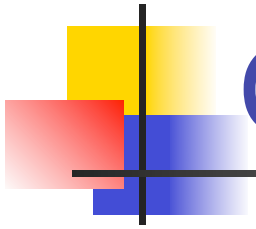
- Built-in data structures (lists, dictionaries) are also objects
  - though internal representation is different



Control flow (1)

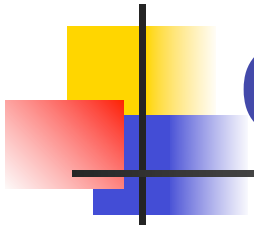
- if, if/else, if/elif/else

```
if a == 0:
    print "zero!"
elif a < 0:
    print "negative!"
else:
    print "positive!"
```



Control flow (2)

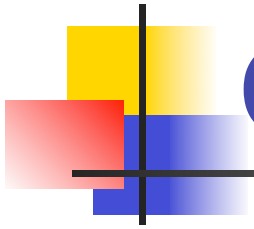
- Notes:
  - blocks delimited by indentation!
  - colon (:) used at end of lines containing control flow keywords



Control flow (3)

- `while` loops

```
a = 10
while a > 0:
    print a
    a -= 1
```

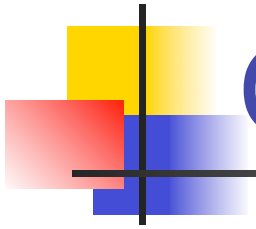


Control flow (4)

- `for` loops

```
for a in range(10):
    print a
```

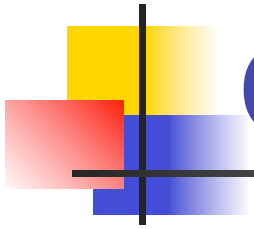
- really a "foreach" loop



Control flow (5)

- Common `for` loop idiom:

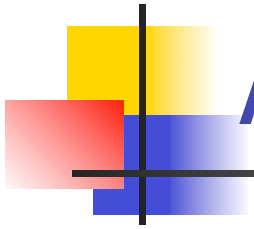
```
a = [3, 1, 4, 1, 5, 9]
for i in range(len(a)):
    print a[i]
```



Control flow (6)

- Common `while` loop idiom:

```
f = open(filename, "r")
while True:
    line = f.readline()
    if not line:
        break
    # do something with line
```



Aside 2: file iteration

- Instead of using `while` loop to iterate through file, can write:

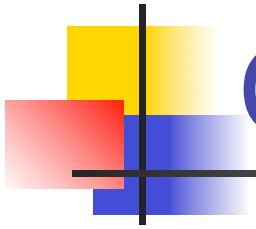
```
f = open("some_file", "r")
for line in f:
    # do something with line...
```

- More concise, generally considered better

Control flow (7): odds & ends

- `continue` statement like in C

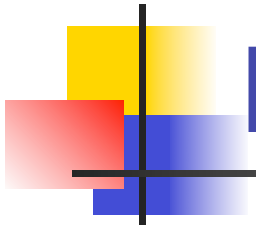
```
a = 0
while a < 10:
    a += 1
    if a % 2 == 0:
        continue  # to next iteration
    else:
        print a
```



Control flow (7): odds & ends

- **`pass`** keyword:

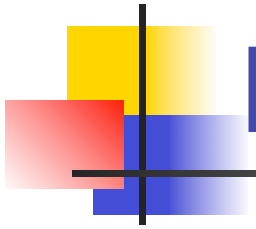
```
if a == 0:
    pass  # do nothing
else:
    # whatever
```



Defining functions

```
def foo(x):
    y = 10 * x + 2
    return y
```

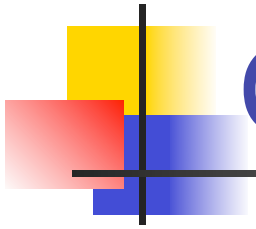
- All variables are local unless specified as `global`
- Arguments passed by value



Executing functions

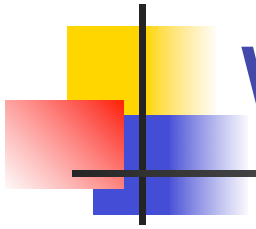
```
def foo(x):
    y = 10 * x + 2
    return y

print foo(10)   # 102
```



Comments

- Start with # and go to end of line
- What about C, C++ style comments?
  - NOT supported!



Writing standalone scripts

- Can execute any file like this:

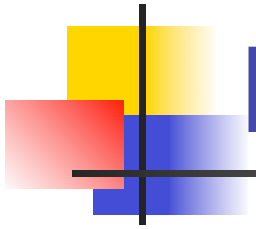
```
% python myprog.py
```

- Might want file to be directly executable, so...
- at top of file, write this:

```
#! /usr/bin/env python
# code goes here...
```

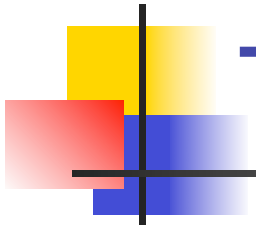
- Then make file executable:

```
% chmod +x myprog.py
% myprog.py
```



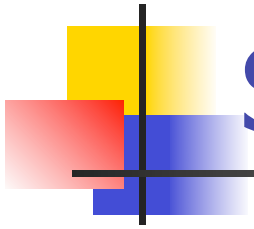
File naming conventions

- python files usually end in `.py`
- but executable files usually don't have the `.py` extension
- modules (later) should always have the `.py` extension



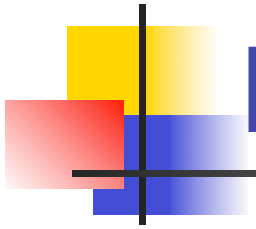
Take a deep breath...

- Almost done! ;-)
- More on strings
- Modules
- Command-line arguments
- File I/O



Strings and formatting

```
i = 10
d = 3.1415926
s = "I am a string!"
print "%d\t%f\t%s" % (i, d, s)
print "no newline",
```



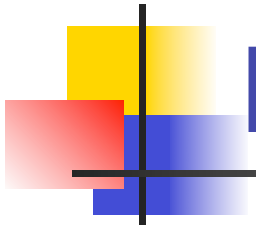
Modules (1)

- Access other code by importing modules

```
import math
print math.sqrt(2.0)
```

- or:

```
from math import sqrt
print sqrt(2.0)
```



Modules (2)

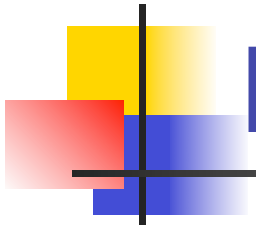
- or:

```
from math import *
print sqrt(2.0)
```

- Can import multiple modules on one line:

```
import sys, string, math
```

- Only one "`from x import y`" per line

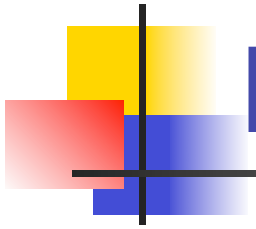


Modules (3)

- NOTE!

  ```
  from some_module import *
  ```

  - should be avoided
  - dumps all names from `some_module` into local namespace
  - easy to get inadvertent name conflicts this way

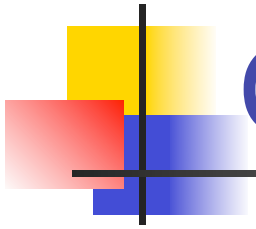


Modules (4)

- Code you write in file `foo.py` is part of module "`foo`"

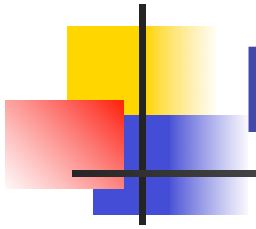
- Can import this code from within other files:

```
import foo
# code that uses stuff from foo
```



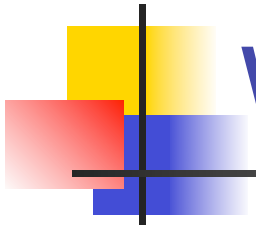
Command-line arguments

```
import sys
print len(sys.argv) # NOT argc
# Print all arguments:
print sys.argv
# Print all arguments but the program
# or module name:
print sys.argv[1:]  # "array slice"
```



File I/O

```
f = open("foo", "r")
line = f.readline()
print line,
f.close()
# Can use sys.stdin as input;
# Can use sys.stdout as output.
```



Whew!

- First assignment is easy
- Next week: classes and objects