Languages

• Solve problems using a computer, give the computer instructions.
• Remember our diaper-changing exercise?
Talk the talk

• Speak its language
  – High-level: Python, C++, Java
  – Low-level: machine language, computers can only execute these
  – High-level languages have to be processed into low-level before the computer can run them
  – But high-level languages can run on different kinds of computers and are easier for humans to write and read, so most programs are written in high-level
Translation

• How does high-level get translated into low-level?
  – Interpreters and compilers!
  – Interpreter processes the program a little bit at a time and runs it
  – Compiler translates everything before running it
What is Python?

Python is a programming language that lets you work more quickly and integrate your systems more effectively. (in other words, magic!)

http://www.python.org/
Python Vocab

- **Program** – A larger file of code that may contain one or more functions.

- **Variable** - names that you can assign values to, allowing you to reuse them later on.
  
  E.g.: `x = 1` or `msg = “Hi, I’m a message!”`

- **Comments** – These are notes ignored by the computer. In Python, comments start with a hash mark (#) and end at the end of the line.
  
  E.g.: `>>> x + y #both variables store user input`

- **Operators** – Mathematical symbols, like +, -, *, and /, but also ** (for exponents).
Python Vocab

• **Keyword** – Words with meaning/purpose in Python. E.g. “and”, “print”, and “if”.

• **Function** – A chunk of code that performs an action. Functions have names and are reusable. Kinds: built-in ones, and “user-defined” ones.

• **Expression** – Statements that produce values. Examples include 3 + 5, "Hello world!".

• **Error** – When your program has a problem, the command area will provide an error message.
What is JES?

Jython Environment for Students allows you to program and experiment with python.
The top part (the white window with the tiny number 1, which tells you that that’s line number 1), or the “program area”, works like any text editor would, where you can type stuff and save it under some file name so you can close it and pull it back up later.

The bottom part (in black), the “command area”, is the brains of the operation.
After you are done writing a program here

Click Load Program to compile the program
Writing Your Program

Header Comments:

# file name: circ.py
# author: Durrah Almansour
# description: a program to calculate the area of a circle.
Indentation

• Not an Option, but a Requirement!
• In Python, indenting specifies the “scope” of different chunks of your code.

```python
def main():
    print "Hello world!"
```

The print line will be executed when you invoke main().
Writing Your Program

• Always plan what you want your program to do (pseudocode).

• Divide it into parts, it will make it easier to debug and update later.
Writing Your Program

Defining Functions:

def main():
    print "Hello world!"

- Name the function for the purpose you wrote it for.

- Don’t forget to indent the instructions that go inside the function.
Argument

A value passed to a function or method, assigned to a named local variable in the function body.

Ex. `def addUp(a,b):
    print("this is a+b: ", a+b)`

# a and b are the *parameters*, 1 and 3 are the arguments we passed in.
# The function outputs : this is 1+3: 4

http://docs.python.org/glossary.html#glossary
Calling Functions

```python
main()
```

will give the output

```
Hello world!
```

- There is no colon when calling a function!
- Use colons with “def”. 
• Try this yourself

```python
>>> def main():
.... print "Artemis is Awesome"
...
>>> main()
```

DON’T FORGET TO INDENT!
E.g. Print:

print "Hello world!"

will give the output

Hello world!
Similar formatting, different output

• `print "Hello", "world", "!"`
  will output
  Hello world !

• `print "Hello" + "world" + "!"`
  will output
  Helloworld!
Similar formatting, different output

- print "Hello"
  print "world"
  print "!"
- will give the output
  Hello
  world
  !

- print "Hello",
  print "world",
  print "!"
- will give the output
  Hello world !
Data Types

The data type of an object determines the values it can hold, and the operations which can be performed on it.

• Numeric Data

Numeric data comes in 2 main flavors:
– Integers (whole numbers) 2, 5, -7, etc.
– Floating Point Numbers (non-integers) 0.2, 5.125, etc.
Data Types

• Non-numeric Data Types:
  Those include strings (text), lists, dictionaries, etc..
  Basically anything you can not add up using a simple plus sign (+).
Not a String? Not a Problem!

You can also format outputting variables you’ve defined:

- \( x = 42 \)
  
  print "The value of \( x \) is", \( x \), "."  

- will give the output

  The value of \( x \) is 42.
Not a String? Not a Problem!

• x = 42
  print "\$" + x
causes an error.

• So what do we do?
  x = 42
  print "\$" + str(x)
will give the output
$42
Defining Variables

Rules for naming variables:

• Have to start with a letter or underscore (_)
• Can contain letters, numbers, and underscores
• Can’t contain spaces, punctuation, etc.
• Can’t be Python keywords
• Are case sensitive
Defining Variables

Things that aren’t rules, but are worth considering:

• You should give your variables sensible names ("price", "pixelColor", or "samplingRate" instead of "x")

• Just because you technically can start your variable names with underscores doesn’t mean you should.
Defining Variables

• For multi-word variable names, two options:
  – start capitalizing each word after the first “myCar”
  – separate words with underscores. For instance, a variable for “Ford Focus” could be “my_car”.

• Abbreviating is common for longer words. So, a variable for “average price” could be “avgPrice” or even “avg”.
Variables

• Variables can hold all kinds of values, including strings, different types of numbers, and user input.

• To assign a string value to a variable, you have to wrap the string in quotes (like usual).

```python
firstName = "John"
lastName = "Doe"
mathProblem = "5 + 5"
print lastName, ",", firstName, ";", mathProblem
will give the output
Doe , John ; 5 + 5
```
Variables

• Variables can also be assigned new values that are relative to their old values. For example:

```python
total = 10
print "Original total:\", total
total = total + 4
print "New total:\", total
```

will give the output

Original total: 10
New total: 14
Variables

• Remember: A variable has to have been defined on a previous line before it can be used on the right-hand side of an equation, so:

  • `total = total + 4`
  • `print "Total:"`, `total`

causes an error, since there was no mention of the value of “total” before the line trying to redefine it.
Numeric Operators

• Python built-in numeric operators:
  • +  addition
  • -  subtraction
  • *  multiplication
  • /  division
  • ** exponentiation
  • %  remainder (modulo)
Python Arithmetic

• Try writing the following code in your program area and see what it outputs

```python
Def main():
a = 12
b = 2
c = 16
d = 3
e = 2.5

print "the value of a is", a
print (a / b) * 5
print a + b * d
print (a + b) * d
print b ** d
print c - e
a = a + b
print "the value of a is", a
```
Python Arithmetic

• Is this what you got?
  the value of a is 12
  30
  18
  42
  8
  13.5
  the value of a is 14
Exercise Time!

• Write a program that takes in a birthday (dd, mm, yy) and returns:
  – The age
  – Number of days until next birthday
Taking User Input

Sometimes, instead of passing in arguments, you can ask for them after calling the function.
Taking User Input

- `requestNumber()`
- `requestInteger()`
- `requestIntegerInRange()`
- `requestString()`
Taking User Input

```python
name = requestString("Enter your name:")
print name
```

First pops up a dialog box (where you can enter a name, say ‘John Doe’):

```
Input

Enter your name:
John Doe
```

Then outputs John Doe
Ex. Try it with Numbers!

```python
num = requestNumber("Enter a number:")
print "Your number:", num
print "Your number squared:", num*num
```

This is where you put the message you want to appear with your input box!
Ex. Try Inputting a String

• Make JES print “<input> is awesome!”

name = requestString("Enter your name:")
print name, “is awesome!”
The For Loop

• Also known as the “definite loop”.
• Allows you to specify a list of items (numbers, words, letters, etc.), and specify action(s) to be performed on each one.
• The official form for the for loop is this:

    for <var> in <sequence>:
        <body>

(Note that the body is indented to in the loop)
The Kittens Need Your Help!

You are working at an animals shelter, you are asked to take a group of kittens, bathe, dry, and feed each one individually.
The Kittens Need a Loop!

Using a for-loop type notation, your instructions would look like this:

```python
Kittens = [kitty #1, kitty#2, kitty#3, ...]
for kitty in Kittens:
    bathe kitty
    dry kitty
    feed kitty
```
Ex. For Loop

- phrase = "Hello world!"
  for letter in phrase:
  print "the next letter is:", letter
will give the output
the next letter is: H
the next letter is: e
the next letter is: l
the next letter is: l
the next letter is: o
the next letter is: w
the next letter is: o
the next letter is: r
the next letter is: l
the next letter is: d
the next letter is: !
What Just Happened?

• What Python did was that it went through the line one character at a time, treating the line like a sequence.

• That means that the line can be split into its components (the characters).
split()

Want to work with units of a phrase that aren’t characters?
Put something in the `<sequence>` position that isn’t just a string.
The result is a list of all the items in the phrase that are separated by spaces.
split()

phrase = "Hello beautiful world!"
for word in phrase.split():
    print "the next word is:" , word

will give the output
the next word is: Hello
the next word is: beautiful
the next word is: world!
split()

In fact, if you printed phrase.split() to see what it looked like, you’d get ['Hello', 'beautiful', 'world!'], a list containing each “word”

(You will learn about lists tomorrow 😊)
Accumulator Variables

When you’re using a for loop, sometimes you want to keep a running total of numbers you’re calculating, or re-combine bits of a string.
Accumulator Variables

Steps:
1. Define it for the first time before the for loop starts.
2. Redefine it as itself plus some operation in the body of the for loop.

```python
total = 0
for num in [1,2,4,10,20]:
    total = total + num
print "Total: ", total
```

will give the output

Total: 37
Accumulator Variables

What is the point of accumulator variables?

- Counting.
- Keeping score (affects program does).
- Debugging.
Conditional Statements

Equals: ==
Does not equal: !=

Try this:
x = 1
If( x != 2)
    print “Artemis rocks”
Pictures
File Functions

- pictures live within files.
- You must get your program to go find and read a file that’s somewhere else on your computer.
File Functions

Steps:

1. Store the “address” for the file you want as a variable
2. Use functions to read, display, or modify the file at that location.
myFile = pickAFile()

This function notes the ‘path name’ (as a string) of your file, i.e. the “address” of that file on your computer.

It brings up the ‘file selector dialog’. 
File Functions

If it is a picture, and you wish to treat it as such:

```python
myPic = makePicture(myFile)
```

These functions will not make anything appear. So far, things are just stored in the computer’s memory, invisible to the user.
After modifying your sound/picture you may want to save it as a new file, since ‘repainting’ a picture or ‘playing’ a sound will simply show you your work, not save it anywhere.
Pictures

How?

Use `writePictureTo` after you specify the path.

Try this in the command area

```python
path ="/Users/Durrah/Documents/stuff/editedpic.jpg"
writePictureTo(pic,path)
```
Pictures

Try writing this simple function:

```python
#hohoho
def main():
    file = pickAFile()
    pic = makePicture(file)
    show(pic)
```
Pictures

- Find a small picture (use Google)
- Save it in Documents.
- Enter the following

```python
>>> file = pickAFile()
>>> pic = makePicture(file)
>>> show(pic)
```
Pictures

Your picture should appear
Pictures

Now enter `explore(pic)`

Click anywhere in the picture that just popped up and you’ll see the X & Y coordinates of the pixel.
Pictures

This function is useful when you are trying to locate a certain pixel that you want to play with. It gives you the Red, Green and Blue values of that pixel. This is the stuff of which Photoshop is made 😊!
Pixel Functions

So how do you make changes to your picture?

- Target one pixel
- Target all pixel
**Getting a Pixel**

`getPixel` takes three parameters, the picture to take the pixel info from, the x-value of the desired pixel, and the y-value of the pixel, in the form `getPixel(pic, x, y)`

Add this to your command area

```python
>>> show(pic)
>>> explore(pic)
>>> aPixel = getPixel(pic, 5, 10)
```
aPixel = getPixel(pic, x, y) stores the color information of the pixel located at (5, 10) in the picture pic in the variable aPixel.

But what if we want ALL the pixels?
Get Those Pixels!

getPixels(pic)

>>> show(pic)
>>> explore(pic)
>>> aPixel = getPixel(pic, 5, 10)
>>> allPixels = getPixels(pic)
Now we want to change every single pixel... How will we ever do that?

Why of course!
The LOOP to rescue!
There are New Pixels in Town

Don’t forget to indent!

```plaintext
>>> allPixels = getPixels(pic)
>>> for px in getPixels(pic):
...     setRed(px, 0)
...```
Your picture has not changed yet? That is because you haven’t applied the changes to it!

Enter:

```python
repaaint(pic)
```
THE CHALLENGE

Can you write a program (in the program area) that changes the color of the picture the way we did?

You have all the functions in your command area.

I will give you the pseudocode and you have to code it however you see fit.
Remember to start with def **main()**: and to indent everything to be inside it!
The program should have 9 lines of code. I will show **one line** of code every **TWO** minutes

Can you beat the PowerPoint?
Pictures

- Get the file
- Make it a picture
- Display it
- Explore it
- Get one pixel
- Change the color of the picture
- Apply the changes
When creating a negative, we want the opposite of each of the current values for red, green, and blue. If we have a red component of 0, we want 255 instead. If we have 255, we want 0.

In other words, we are getting $|255 - \text{current}|$ for every pixel in the picture.
Def negative():
    file = pickAFile()
    pic = makePicture(file)
    for px in getPixels(pic):
        red = getRed(px)
        green = getGreen(px)
        Blue = getBlue(px)
        negColor = makeColor(255-red, 255-green, 255-blue)
        setColor(px, negColor)
    repaint(pic)
    show(pic)
Durrrah’s “Alot”

Durrrah’s “Alot”
Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

• We can use Python to manipulate more than the colors of the picture. We can do this:

Hi five!
#Starting with pseudocode

`mirrorVertical()`:

Get a picture

Identify its middle.

In every row

Replace each column with the at the same distance from the middle until you reach the middle

Apply changes

Show the picture
def mirrorVertical():
    file = pickAFile()
    pic = makePicture(file)
    mirrorpoint = getWidth(pic)/2
    for y in range(1, getHeight(pic)):
        for xOffset in range(1, mirrorpoint):
            pright = getPixel(pic, mirrorpoint+xOffset, y)
            pleft = getPixel(pic, mirrorpoint-xOffset,y)
            c = getColor(pleft)
            setColor(pright, c)
    repaint(pic)
    show(pic)
Extra Challenge

• As you can see, the right side mirrored the left side (and that’s why the creature has two heads).
• Can you change your code so it does the opposite? (i.e. let the left side mirror the right side)
Reversed Mirroring

• This is the result I got:
Are the soldiers, clouds, big creature actually there?
The Green Screen

- Placing an object (foreground) in a background of our choice.
The Green Screen

- Tell the computer look at each pixel, and see if its red and blue values are less than its green value.
- If (red+blue < green) then that pixel is likely to belong to the green screen. Now tell the computer to get the pixel at the same location from the background and paint it on the green screen.
So in a way, you are actually placing the background on the foreground, not the other way around.

Also, it could be a blue screen. (How will the code change?)
def greenScreen(source, bg):
    for p in getPixels(source):
        if (getRed(p) + getBlue(p) < getGreen(p)):
            setColor(p, getColor(getPixel(bg, getX(p), getY(p)))))
    repaint (source)
The Green Screen Effect

You do not get perfect results all the time...
Our Journey Ends Here

But yours doesn’t need to!
Want to learn more?

Go to:

wiki.python.org/moin/BeginnersGuide
Questions?

This presentations was based on the CS101 Guide to Python and JES (http://www.cs.bu.edu/courses/cs101b1/jes)