

# Computer Programming

(for biologists)

BIOL 7800



# What is computer programming?

[illegible]

# What is computer programming?

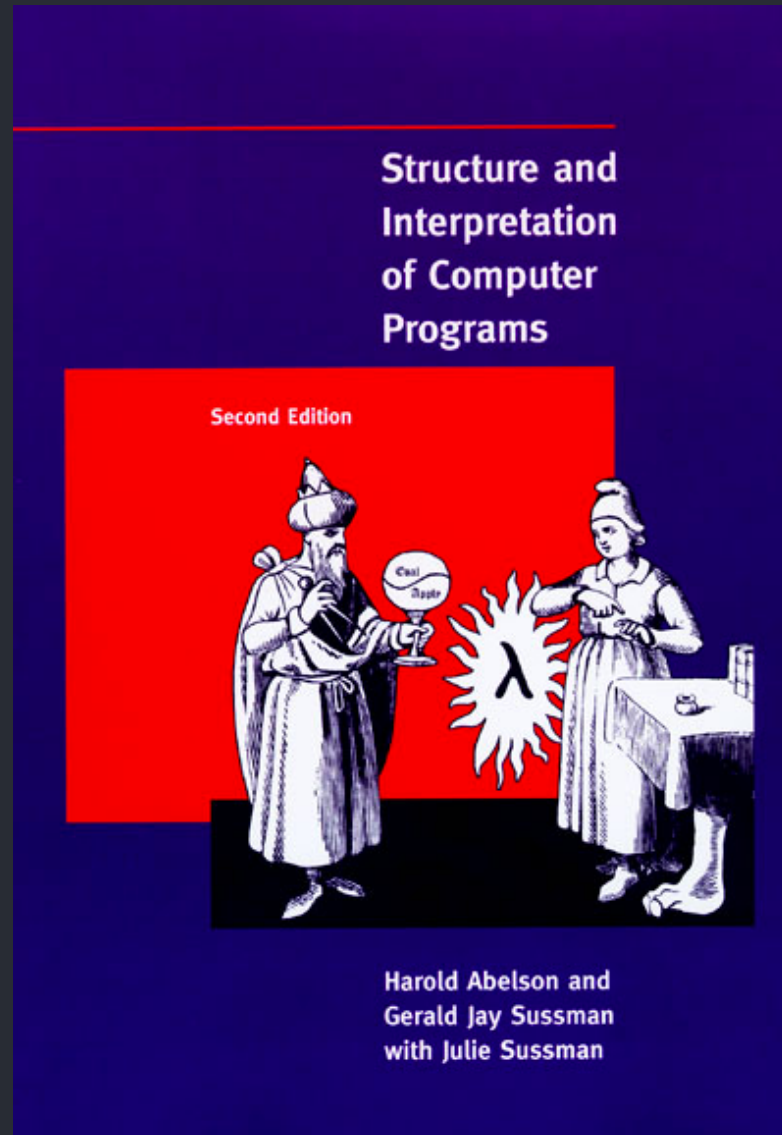
Computer programming  
(often shortened to *programming*)  
is a process that leads from an original  
formulation of a computing problem to  
executable computer programs.

- Wikipedia



Ada Lovelace  
(1815 - 1852)

# What is computer programming?

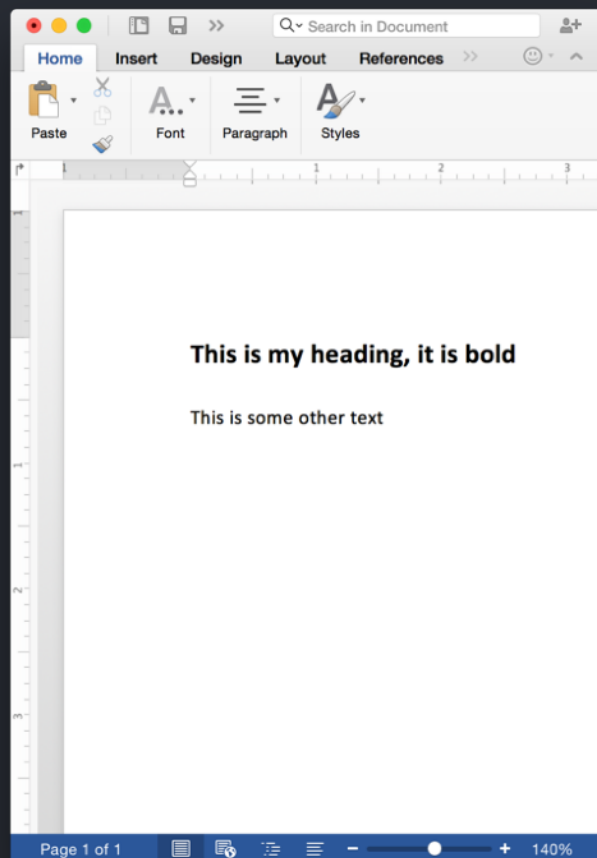


“We are about to study the idea of a **computational process**. Computational processes are abstract beings that inhabit computers. As they evolve, processes manipulate other abstract things called data. The evolution of a process is directed by a pattern of rules called a **program**. People create programs to **direct processes**. In effect, we conjure the spirits of the computer with our spells.”

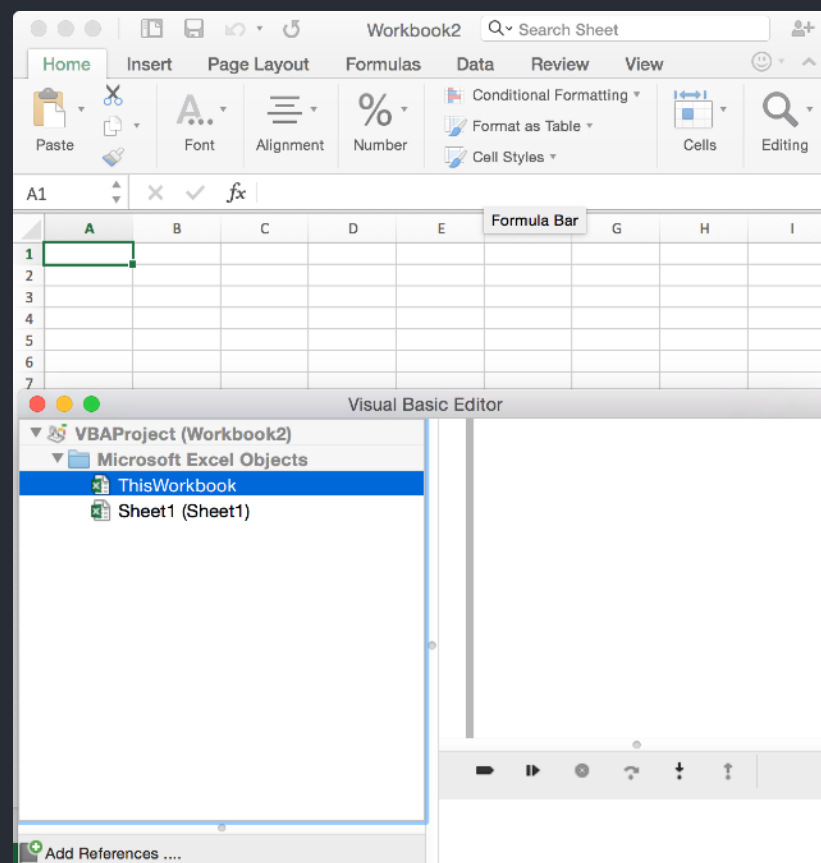
# What is computer programming?

Providing a **logical sequence of arguments** to a computer so that it can perform a **desired task**

## Several “levels”



Application level



Macro-level

```
27 def _mean_and_variance_pop_n(values):
28     n = 0
29     s = 0.0
30     ss = 0.0
31     for v in values:
32         n += 1
33         s += v
34         ss += v*v
35     if n == 0:
36         raise IndexError("values in mean_and_
37     mean = float(s)/n
38     var = (ss - mean*s)/n
39     return mean, var, n
40
41 def mean_and_population_variance(values):
42     """Returns the mean and population variance of
43     elements in values once."""
44     return _mean_and_variance_pop_n(values)
45
46 def mean_and_sample_variance(values):
47     """Returns the mean and sample variance of
48     elements in values once."""
49     mean, pop_var, n = _mean_and_variance_pop_n(values)
```

General purpose  
level

# What is computer programming?

[illegible]

General purpose level

## Programming Language

The “**dialect**” that we use to provide our instructions to the computer

TCSH

COBOL

ZSH

C++

R

C

Ruby

BASH

Python

C#

Perl

D

FORTRAN

JAVA



# Mother Tongues

Tracing the roots of computer languages through the ages

Just like half of the world's spoken tongues, most of the 2,300-plus computer programming languages are either endangered or extinct. As powerhouses C/C++, Visual Basic, Cobol, Java and other modern source codes dominate our systems, hundreds of older languages are running out of life.

An ad hoc collection of engineers-electronic lexicographers, if you will-aim to save, or at least document the lingo of classic software. They're combing the globe's 9 million developers in search of coders still fluent in these nearly forgotten lingua frangas. Among the most endangered are Ada, APL, B (the predecessor of C), Lsp, Oberon, Smalltalk, and Simula.

Code-raker Grady Booch, Rational Software's chief scientist, is working with the Computer History Museum in Silicon Valley to record and, in some cases, maintain languages by writing new compilers so our ever-changing hardware can grok the code. Why bother? "They tell us about the state of software practice, the minds of their inventors, and the technical, social, and economic forces that shaped history at the time," Booch explains. "They'll provide the raw material for software archaeologists, historians, and developers to learn what worked, what was brilliant, and what was an utter failure." Here's a peek at the strongest branches of programming's family tree. For a nearly exhaustive rundown, check out the Language List at [HTTP://www.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/Java/misc/lang\\_list.html](http://www.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/Java/misc/lang_list.html). - Michael Mendenso

Key

1954

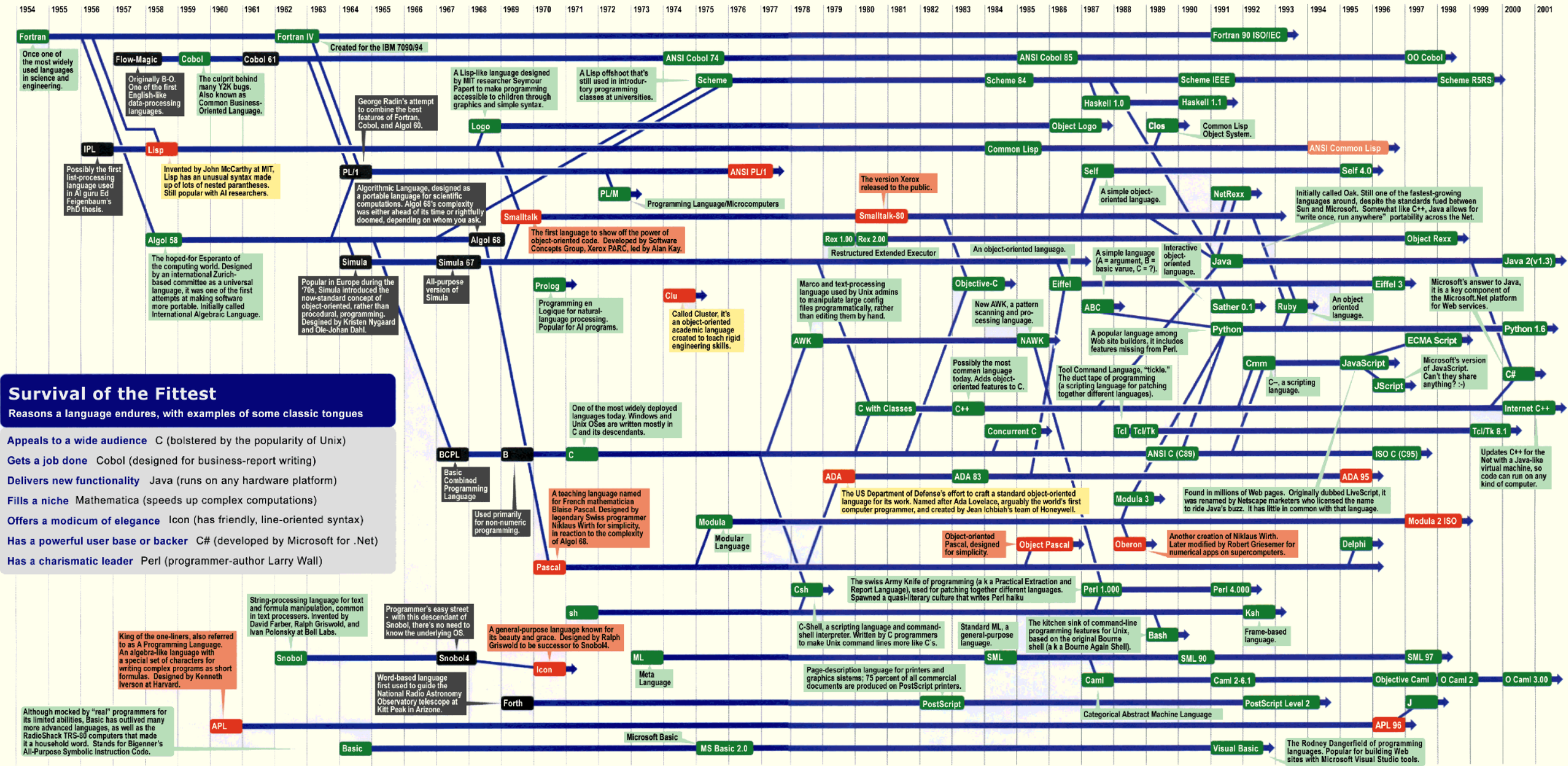
Active: thousands of users

Protected: taught at universities; compilers available

Endangered: usage dropping off

Extinct: no known active users or up-to-date compilers

Lineage continues



Sources: Paul Boutin; Brent Hailpern, associate director of computer science at IBM Research; The Retrocomputing Museum; Todd Proebsting, senior researcher at Microsoft; Gio Wiederhold, computer scientist, Stanford University



General purpose level

## Programming Language

The “**dialect**” that we use to provide our instructions to the computer

### Four classes of Programming Language

machine code

assembly language

high-level language

very high-level language

```
/usr/bin/less:      file format elf64-x86-64
```

```
Disassembly of section .init:
```

```
0000000000401590 <_init>:
```

```
401590:  48 83 ec 08      sub    $0x8,%rsp
401594:  e8 b3 04 00 00   callq 401a4c <time@plt+0x44>
401599:  e8 42 05 00 00   callq 401ae0 <time@plt+0xd8>
40159e:  e8 fd 42 01 00   callq 4158a0 <error+0x3720>
4015a3:  48 83 c4 08      add    $0x8,%rsp
4015a7:  c3              retq
```

```
Disassembly of section .plt:
```

```
00000000004015a8 <tcsetattr@plt-0x10>:
```

```
4015a8:  ff 35 3a ec 21 00  pushq 0x21ec3a(%rip)      # 6201e8 <_fini+0x20a910>
4015ae:  ff 25 3c ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec3c(%rip)     # 6201f0 <_fini+0x20a918>
4015b4:  0f 1f 40 00      nopl  0x0(%rax)
```

```
00000000004015b8 <tcsetattr@plt>:
```

```
4015b8:  ff 25 3a ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec3a(%rip)     # 6201f8 <_fini+0x20a920>
4015be:  68 00 00 00 00    pushq $0x0
4015c3:  e9 e0 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
```

```
00000000004015c8 <fileno@plt>:
```

```
4015c8:  ff 25 32 ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec32(%rip)     # 620200 <_fini+0x20a928>
4015ce:  68 01 00 00 00    pushq $0x1
4015d3:  e9 d0 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
```

```
00000000004015d8 <close@plt>:
```

```
4015d8:  ff 25 2a ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec2a(%rip)     # 620208 <_fini+0x20a930>
4015de:  68 02 00 00 00    pushq $0x2
4015e3:  e9 c0 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
```

```
00000000004015e8 <__longjmp_chk@plt>:
```

```
4015e8:  ff 25 22 ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec22(%rip)     # 620210 <_fini+0x20a938>
4015ee:  68 03 00 00 00    pushq $0x3
4015f3:  e9 b0 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
```

```
00000000004015f8 <iocctl@plt>:
```

```
4015f8:  ff 25 1a ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec1a(%rip)     # 620218 <_fini+0x20a940>
4015fe:  68 04 00 00 00    pushq $0x4
401603:  e9 a0 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
```

```
0000000000401608 <tgetflag@plt>:
```

```
401608:  ff 25 12 ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec12(%rip)     # 620220 <_fini+0x20a948>
40160e:  68 05 00 00 00    pushq $0x5
401613:  e9 90 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
```

```
0000000000401618 <nl_langinfo@plt>:
```

```
401618:  ff 25 0a ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec0a(%rip)     # 620228 <_fini+0x20a950>
40161e:  68 06 00 00 00    pushq $0x6
401623:  e9 80 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
```

```
0000000000401628 <__fprintf_chk@plt>:
```

```
401628:  ff 25 02 ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec02(%rip)     # 620230 <_fini+0x20a958>
40162e:  68 07 00 00 00    pushq $0x7
401633:  e9 70 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
```

```
0000000000401638 <isatty@plt>:
```

```
401638:  ff 25 fa eb 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ebfa(%rip)     # 620238 <_fini+0x20a960>
40163e:  68 08 00 00 00    pushq $0x8
```

## machine code

set of instructions that are run  
directly by the central  
processing unit

\* architecture specific

objdump -d /usr/bin/less | less

```

1 /usr/bin/less:      file format elf64-x86-64
2
3
4 Disassembly of section .init:
5
6 0000000000401590 <_init>:
7   401590:    48 83 ec 08      sub    $0x8,%rsp
8   401594:    e8 b3 04 00 00   callq 401a4c <time@plt+0x44>
9   401599:    e8 42 05 00 00   callq 401ae0 <time@plt+0xd3>
10  40159e:    e8 fd 42 01 00   callq 4158a0 <error+0x3720>
11  4015a3:    48 83 c4 08      add    $0x8,%rsp
12  4015a7:    c3              retq
13
14 Disassembly of section .plt:
15
16 00000000004015a8 <tcsetattr@plt-0x10>
17  4015a8:    ff 35 3a ec 21 00  pushq 0x21ec3a(%rip)    # 6201e8 <_fini+0x20a910>
18  4015ae:    ff 25 3c ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec3c(%rip)    # 6201f0 <_fini+0x20a918>
19  4015b4:    0f 1f 40 00      nopl   0x0(%rax)
20
21 00000000004015b8 <tcsetattr@plt>:
22  4015b8:    ff 25 3a ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec3a(%rip)    # 6201f8 <_fini+0x20a920>
23  4015be:    68 00 00 00 00    pushq $0x0
24  4015c3:    e9 e0 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
25
26 00000000004015c8 <fileno@plt>:
27  4015c8:    ff 25 32 ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec32(%rip)    # 620200 <_fini+0x20a928>
28  4015ce:    68 01 00 00 00    pushq $0x1
29  4015d3:    e9 d0 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
30
31 00000000004015d8 <close@plt>:
32  4015d8:    ff 25 2a ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec2a(%rip)    # 620208 <_fini+0x20a930>
33  4015de:    68 02 00 00 00    pushq $0x2
34  4015e3:    e9 c0 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
35
36 00000000004015e8 <__longjmp_chk@plt>:
37  4015e8:    ff 25 22 ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec22(%rip)    # 620210 <_fini+0x20a938>
38  4015ee:    68 03 00 00 00    pushq $0x3
39  4015f3:    e9 b0 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
40
41 00000000004015f8 <iocctl@plt>:
42  4015f8:    ff 25 1a ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec1a(%rip)    # 620218 <_fini+0x20a940>
43  4015fe:    68 04 00 00 00    pushq $0x4
44  401603:    e9 a0 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
45
46 0000000000401608 <tgetflag@plt>:
47  401608:    ff 25 12 ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec12(%rip)    # 620220 <_fini+0x20a948>
48  40160e:    68 05 00 00 00    pushq $0x5
49  401613:    e9 90 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
50
51 0000000000401618 <nl_langinfo@plt>:
52  401618:    ff 25 0a ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec0a(%rip)    # 620228 <_fini+0x20a950>
53  40161e:    68 06 00 00 00    pushq $0x6
54  401623:    e9 80 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
55
56 0000000000401628 <__fprintf_chk@plt>:
57  401628:    ff 25 02 ec 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ec02(%rip)    # 620230 <_fini+0x20a958>
58  40162e:    68 07 00 00 00    pushq $0x7
59  401633:    e9 70 ff ff ff    jmpq  4015a8 <_init+0x18>
60
61 0000000000401638 <isatty@plt>:
62  401638:    ff 25 fa eb 21 00  jmpq  *0x21ebfa(%rip)    # 620238 <_fini+0x20a960>
63  40163e:    68 08 00 00 00    pushq $0x8

```

## assembly language

a low-level abstraction of  
machine code that corresponds  
very strongly to machine code  
instructions

architecture specific

objdump -d /usr/bin/less | less



```

1  #include <unistd.h>
2
3  #include <math.h>
4  #include <time.h>
5  #include <stdlib.h>
6  #include <stdio.h>
7  #include <ctype.h>
8  #include <string.h>
9  #include <stdint.h>
10 #include <limits.h>
11 #include "axml.h"
12 #include <stdint.h>
13 #include <xmmintrin.h>
14 #include <pmmintrin.h>
15 #include <immintrin.h>
16
17 #ifdef _FMA
18 #include <x86intrin.h>
19 #define FMAMACC(a,b,c) _mm256_fmadd_pd(b,c,a)
20 #endif
21
22 extern const unsigned int mask32[32];
23
24 const union __attribute__((aligned (BYTE_ALIGNMENT)))
25 {
26     uint64_t i[4];
27     __m256d m;
28
29 } absMask_AVX = {{0x7fffffffffffffffffULL, 0x7fffffffffffffffffULL, 0x7f
30
31
32
33 static inline __m256d hadd4(__m256d v, __m256d u)
34 {
35     __m256d
36     a, b;
37
38     v = _mm256_hadd_pd(v, v);
39     a = _mm256_permute2f128_pd(v, v, 1);
40     v = _mm256_add_pd(a, v);
41
42     u = _mm256_hadd_pd(u, u);
43     b = _mm256_permute2f128_pd(u, u, 1);
44     u = _mm256_add_pd(b, u);
45
46     v = _mm256_mul_pd(v, u);
47
48     return v;
49 }

```

## high-level language

An (strong) abstraction from machine code or assembly language that is more similar to “natural” language

```

1  #!/usr/bin/env python
2
3  #####
4  ##  DendroPy Phylogenetic Computing Library.
5  ##
6  ##  Copyright 2010–2015 Jeet Sukumaran and Mark T. Holder.
7  ##  All rights reserved.
8  ##
9  ##  See "LICENSE.rst" for terms and conditions of usage.
10 ##
11 ##  If you use this work or any portion thereof in published work,
12 ##  please cite it as:
13 ##
14 ##      Sukumaran, J. and M. T. Holder. 2010. DendroPy: a Python library
15 ##      for phylogenetic computing. Bioinformatics 26: 1569–1571.
16 ##
17 #####
18
19 """
20 Functions to calculate some general statistics.
21 """
22
23 import math
24 from dendropy.calculate import probability
25 from operator import itemgetter
26
27 def _mean_and_variance_pop_n(values):
28     n = 0
29     s = 0.0
30     ss = 0.0
31     for v in values:
32         n += 1
33         s += v
34         ss += v*v
35     if n == 0:
36         raise IndexError("values in mean_and_variance cannot be empty")
37     mean = float(s)/n
38     var = (ss - mean*s)/n
39     return mean, var, n
40
41 def mean_and_population_variance(values):
42     """Returns the mean and population variance while only passing over the
43     elements in values once."""
44     return _mean_and_variance_pop_n(values)[:2]
45
46 def mean_and_sample_variance(values):
47     """Returns the mean and sample variance while only passing over the
48     elements in values once."""
49     mean, pop_var, n = _mean_and_variance_pop_n(values)
50     if n == 1:
51         return mean, float('inf')
52     samp_var = n*pop_var/(n-1)
53     return mean, samp_var
54

```

## very high-level language

An (even stronger) abstraction  
from machine code or assembly  
language that is very similar to  
natural language

```

33 static inline __m256d hadd4(__m256d v, __m256d u)
34 {
35     __m256d
36     a, b;
37
38     v = _mm256_hadd_pd(v, v);
39     a = _mm256_permute2f128_pd(v, v, 1);
40     v = _mm256_add_pd(a, v);
41
42     u = _mm256_hadd_pd(u, u);
43     b = _mm256_permute2f128_pd(u, u, 1);
44     u = _mm256_add_pd(b, u);

```

## High-level language

compiled

code is translated to machine code  
before execution

memory management

statically typed

faster (10 - 100x speedup)

harder

C, C++, BASIC, pascal

```

27 def _mean_and_variance_pop_n(values):
28     n = 0
29     s = 0.0
30     ss = 0.0
31     for v in values:
32         n += 1
33         s += v
34         ss += v*v
35     if n == 0:
36         raise IndexError("values in mean_and_variance cannot be empty")
37     mean = float(s)/n
38     var = (ss - mean*s)/n
39     return mean, var, n

```

## Very high-level language

interpreted

code is “interpreted” and translated  
on-the-fly

garbage collection

dynamically typed

slower

easier

Python, Perl, R, Ruby



# Why Python?

object-oriented, interpreted, garbage-collected language

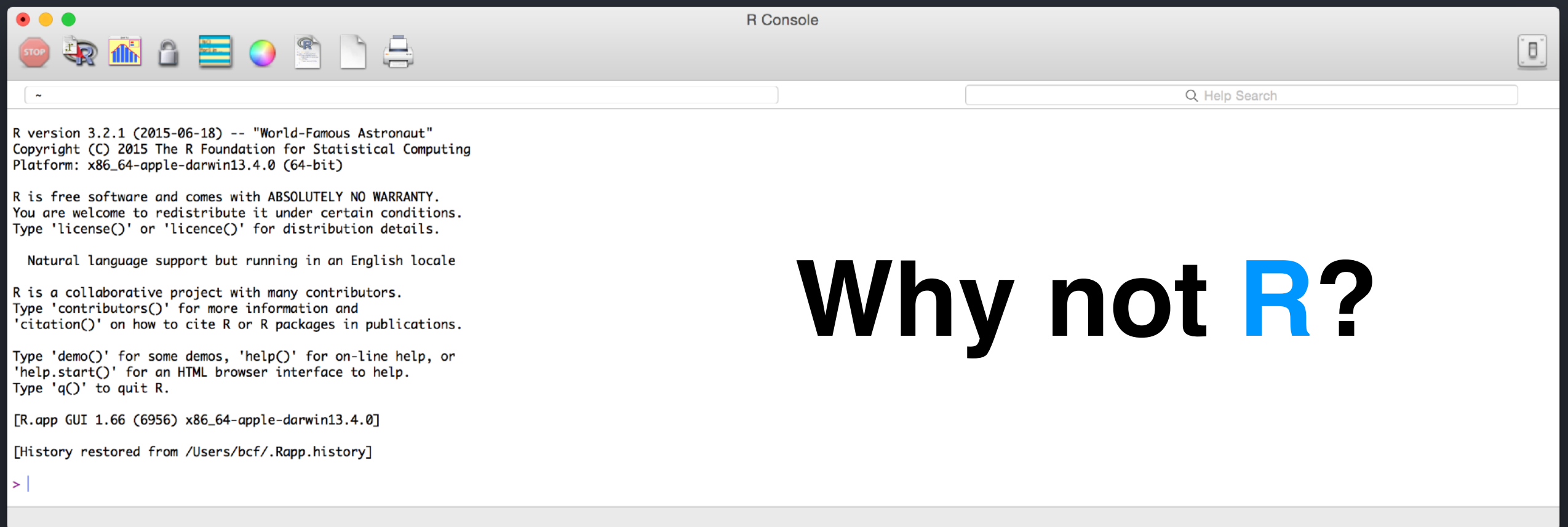
“general-purpose” programming language

syntax is more like natural language

formatting rules (PEP8) help legibility

can use many programming paradigms  
(procedural, functional, object-oriented)

```
--
23 import math
24 from dendropy.calculate import probability
25 from operator import itemgetter
26
27 def _mean_and_variance_pop_n(values):
28     n = 0
29     s = 0.0
30     ss = 0.0
31     for v in values:
32         n += 1
33         s += v
34         ss += v*v
35     if n == 0:
36         raise IndexError("values in mean_and_variance cannot be empty")
37     mean = float(s)/n
38     var = (ss - mean*s)/n
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40
41 def mean_and_population_variance(values):
42     """Returns the mean and population variance while only passing over the
43     elements in values once."""
44     return _mean_and_variance_pop_n(values)[:2]
45
46 def mean_and_sample_variance(values):
47     """Returns the mean and sample variance while only passing over the
48     elements in values once """
```



# Why not R?

R is a **domain specific language** (specialized for a particular problem)

R is (debatably) **ugly**

R is **slow** (again, debatably)

R is (more) confusing...

**But which language you prefer is really up to you!**

# That said, we're using Python...

```
1  #!/usr/bin/env python
2
3  #####
4  ##  DendroPy Phylogenetic Computing Library.
5  ##
6  ##  Copyright 2010-2015 Jeet Sukumaran and Mark T. Holder.
7  ##  All rights reserved.
8  ##
9  ##  See "LICENSE.rst" for terms and conditions of usage.
10 ##
11 ##  If you use this work or any portion thereof in published work,
12 ##  please cite it as:
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14 ##      Sukumaran, J. and M. T. Holder. 2010. DendroPy: a Python library
15 ##      for phylogenetic computing. Bioinformatics 26: 1569-1571.
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18
19 """
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31     for v in values:
32         n += 1
33         s += v
34         ss += v*v
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47     """Returns the mean and sample variance while only passing over the
48     elements in values once."""
49     mean, pop_var, n = _mean_and_variance_pop_n(values)
50     if n == 1:
51         return mean, float('inf')
52     samp_var = n*pop_var/(n-1)
53     return mean, samp_var
54
```

Python is not perfect

*packaging* is still awful

Python 2 to Python 3

slow

“global interpreter lock”

one thread runs a time





October 16, 2000

*print* is a statement

```
2. ipython (ssh)
bcf at ketchup in ~
$ ipython
Python 2.7.9 |Continuum Analytics, Inc.| (default, Mar  9 2015, 16:20:48)
Type "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.

IPython 1.1.0 -- An enhanced Interactive Python.
?      -> Introduction and overview of IPython's features.
%quickref -> Quick reference.
help    -> Python's own help system.
object? -> Details about 'object', use 'object??' for extra details.

In [1]: print "Hellow world"
Hellow world

In [2]:
```



December 3, 2008

*print* is a function

```
3. bash
bcf at brant-4 in ~
$ ipython
Python 3.5.1 |Anaconda 2.4.1 (x86_64)| (default, Dec  7 2015, 11:24:55)
Type "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.

IPython 4.0.1 -- An enhanced Interactive Python.
?      -> Introduction and overview of IPython's features.
%quickref -> Quick reference.
help    -> Python's own help system.
object? -> Details about 'object', use 'object??' for extra details.

In [1]: print "Hellow world"
File "<ipython-input-1-8feb44e30b9b>", line 1
      print "Hellow world"
            ^
SyntaxError: Missing parentheses in call to 'print'
```



**October 16, 2000**

*print* is a statement

integer division

```
2. ipython (ssh)

bcf at ketchup in ~
$ ipython
Python 2.7.9 |Continuum Analytics, Inc.| (default, Mar  9 2015, 16:20
Type "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.

IPython 1.1.0 -- An enhanced Interactive Python.
?          -> Introduction and overview of IPython's features.
%quickref  -> Quick reference.
help       -> Python's own help system.
object?    -> Details about 'object', use 'object??' for extra details

In [1]: 3/2
Out[1]: 1

In [2]:
```



**December 3, 2008**

*print* is a function

float division

```
3. bash

(py35)
bcf at brant-4 in ~
$ ipython
Python 3.5.1 |Anaconda 2.4.1 (x86_64)| (default, Dec  7 2015, 11:24:55)
Type "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.

IPython 4.0.1 -- An enhanced Interactive Python.
?          -> Introduction and overview of IPython's features.
%quickref  -> Quick reference.
help       -> Python's own help system.
object?    -> Details about 'object', use 'object??' for extra details.

In [1]: 3/2
Out[1]: 1.5

In [2]:
```



**October 16, 2000**

*print* is a statement

integer division

ASCII strings

xrange()

**Support stops in 2020**



**December 3, 2008**

*print* is a function

float division

Unicode strings

range()

many “under-the-hood” changes...

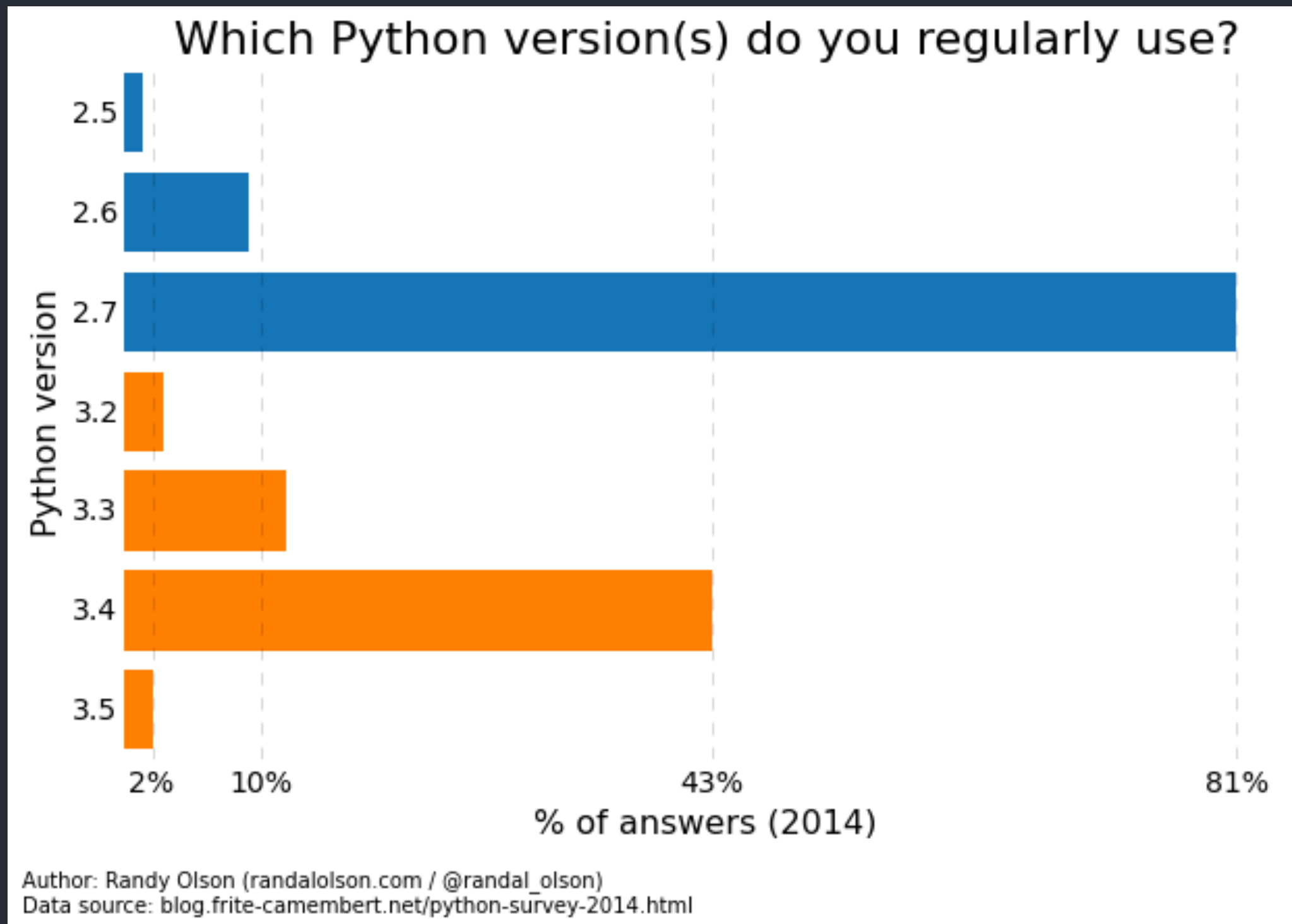




October 16, 2000



December 3, 2008

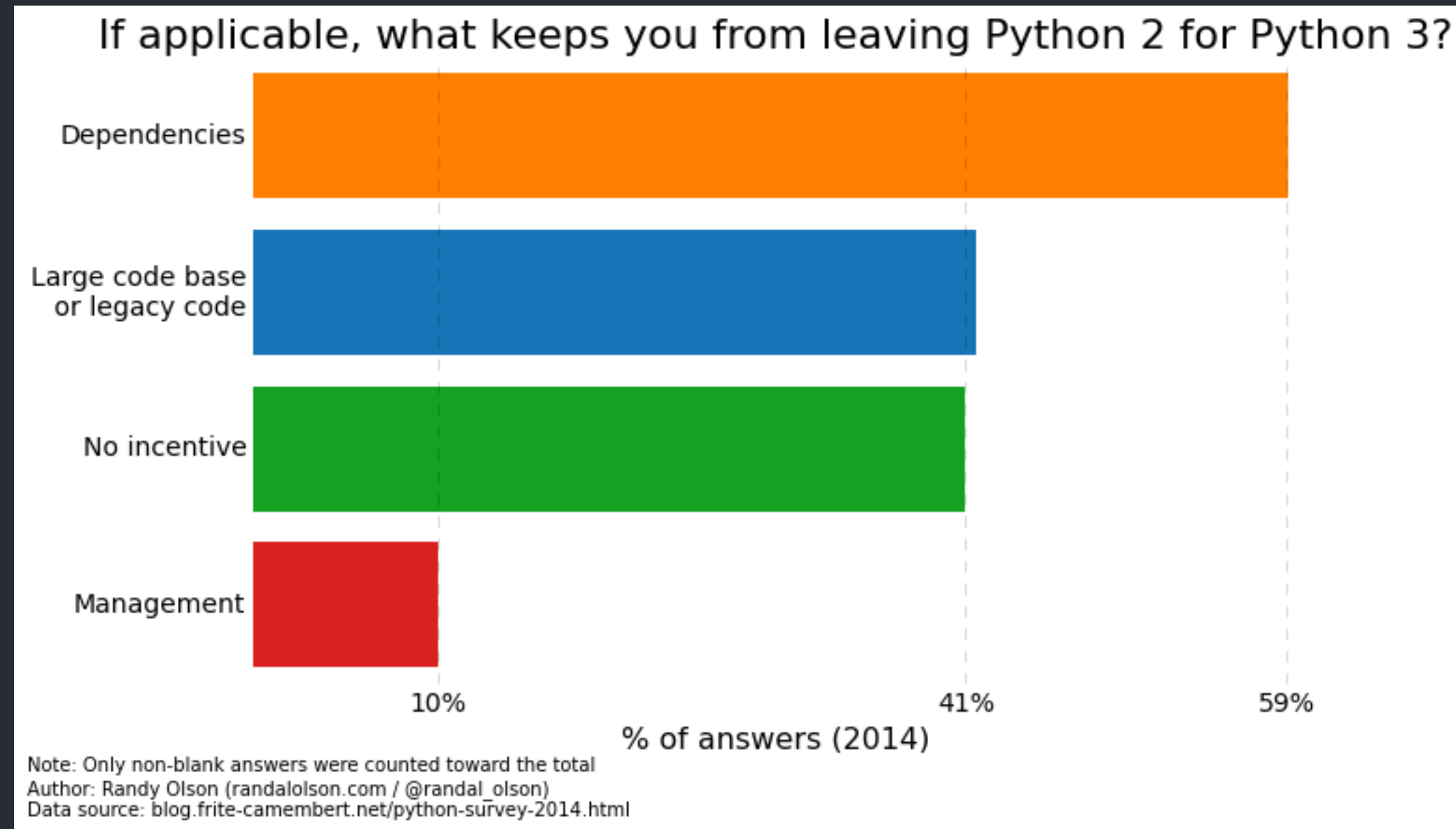




October 16, 2000



December 3, 2008

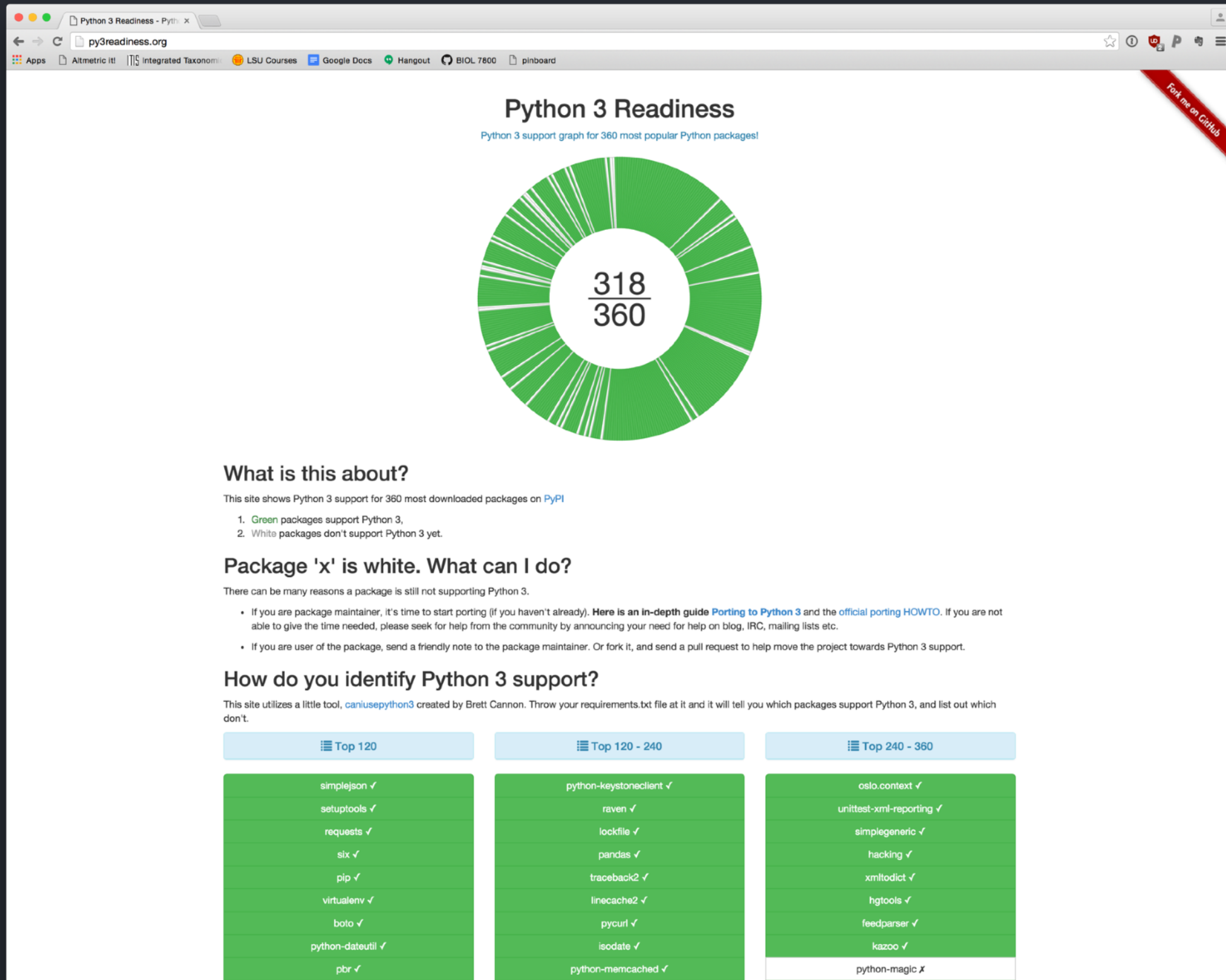




December 3, 2008



December 12, 2016





**December 12, 2016**





At least in beginning, we are using repl.it

The screenshot displays the repl.it web interface for a Python assignment. The browser address bar shows the URL `https://repl.it/teacher/assignments/1418209/preview`. The page title is "Assignment 1.1 - Your first program (preview)". The left sidebar contains a "back to edit" link and a "run" button. The main editor area shows a Python code snippet:

```
1 # Below, write a one line statement that will print the
2 # name of the person who invented Python as output.
3
```

The right sidebar contains the assignment details, including the due date "Due: Aug 28, 2018 08 : 59 am" and a "submit" button. The assignment instructions are:

Instructions from your teacher:

### Assignment 1

For this first, assignment, we're going to work on becoming comfortable with the commands we can enter in repl.it and how those commands produce output. You will likely need to look up and read some documentation for Python (or other sources like wikipedia).

#### Task 1.1 (5 pts)

Write a very small program (this only needs to be a one line statement) to *print* the name of the person who invented Python using the `print ( )` function.

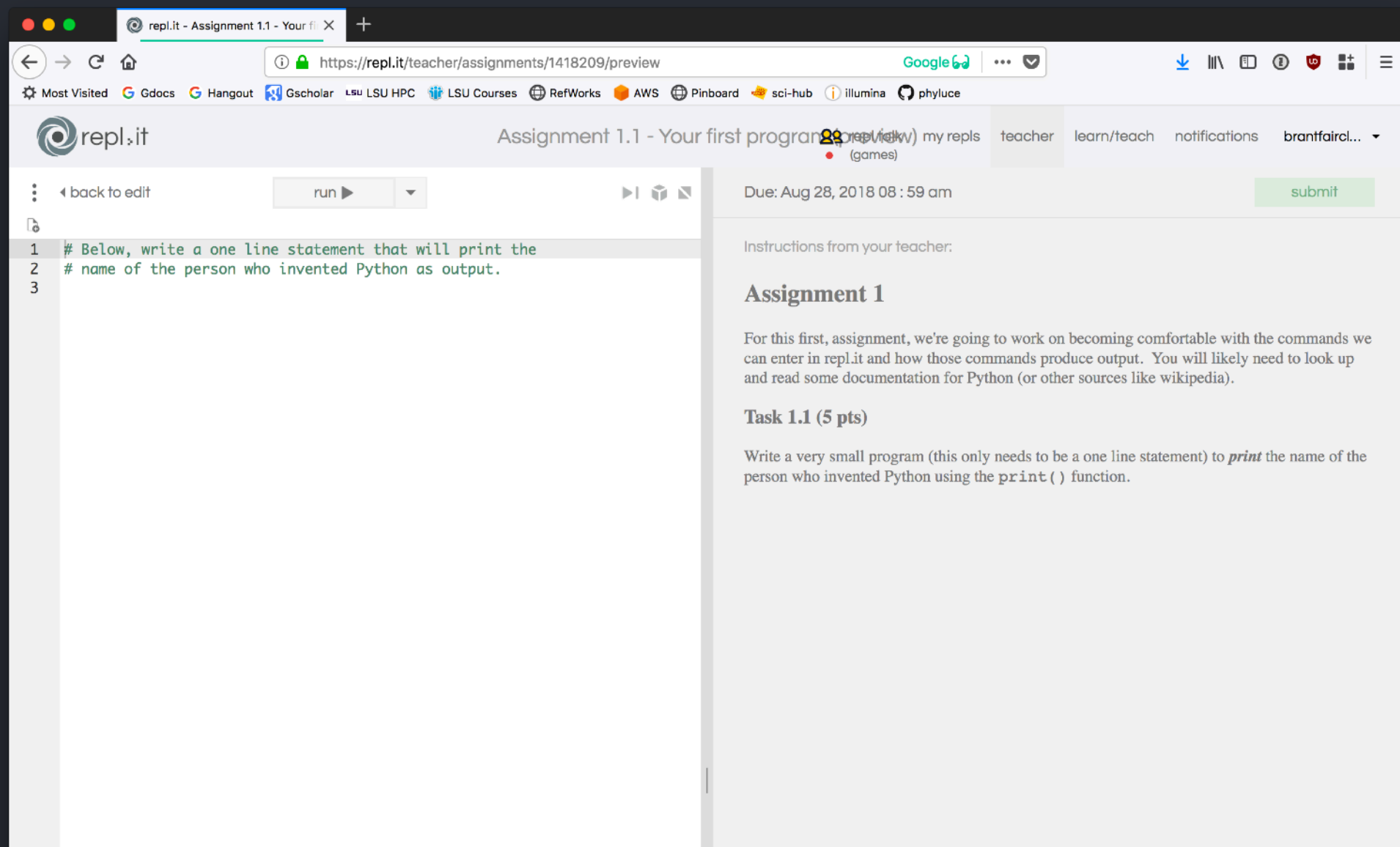
The bottom of the interface shows a terminal window with the following text:

```
Python 3.6.1 (default, Dec 2015, 13:05:11)
[GCC 4.8.2] on linux
```



But, what is **repl.it**?

It's basically a *web interface to* Python that helps us work around different issues on different platforms (meaning it runs the same on windows and mac os)





Python has **modules**,  
and in Python, you can import things...

```
3. python
(py35)
bcf at brant-4 in ~
$ ipython
Python 3.5.1 |Anaconda 2.4.1 (x86_64)| (default, Dec 7 2015, 11:24:55)
Type "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.

IPython 4.0.1 -- An enhanced Interactive Python.
?          -> Introduction and overview of IPython's features.
%quickref  -> Quick reference.
help       -> Python's own help system.
object?    -> Details about 'object', use 'object??' for extra details.

In [1]: import random

In [2]:
```



But, what the hell are **modules**?





## Python **modules**

But, what the hell are **modules**?

They are basically a way to make functions and modules you write persist (stick around) so you can use them again.



## Python **modules**

Many modules are  
part of the `stdlib`

While others are  
3rd-party modules

What's the **difference**?

`os`

`sys`

`string`

`sqlite3`

`random`

`collections`

`scipy`

`PyMC`

`numpy`


`pandas`

`biopython`

`statsmodels`



You can import things different ways...

 Assignment 1.1 - Your first program  
repl.it (games) my repls teacher learn/teach notifications brantfaircl...  
back to edit run ▶ ▶| ◻ ◻ ◻

```
1 # Below, write a one line statement that will print the
2 # name of the person who invented Python as output.
3
4 import numpy
5
6 from numpy import *
7
8 from numpy import random
```

Due: Aug 28, 2018 08 : 59 am submit

Instructions from your teacher:

### Assignment 1

For this first, assignment, we're going to work on becoming comfortable with the commands we can enter in repl.it and how those commands produce output. You will likely need to look up and read some documentation for Python (or other sources like wikipedia).

#### Task 1.1 (5 pts)

Write a very small program (this only needs to be a one line statement) to **print** the name of the person who invented Python using the `print()` function.

(and we'll get to these)