Exercise #10
Due Friday, 12/4/2015, at 11:59pm

Exercise Reflection and Looking to the Future

All you need to do for this week’s exercise is to answer the questions below however you’d like (especially the last one). We’ll use your responses to inform how we teach CS161 next term, and to improve future CS160 courses!

- Did you mostly attend the in-person exercise groups or complete the exercises on your own time? Why did you make that choice?
- Which exercise do you think helped you the most with the course?
- Which exercise did you enjoy the most? Which did you enjoy the least? (Not counting this one, of course)
- If you could change one thing about the exercises, what would it be?
- What are your personal goals for CS161 next term?

(Optional) Winter Break Fun!

Now that Fall term is (almost) over, you might be wondering what you’re going to do with all the free time you’ll have over the long Winter break. If you’re interested in keeping your CS skills up to snuff during the vacation, consider these ideas for fun, engaging projects that will help you develop skills you can use in future CS classes.

- Start learning a new programming language!
  Now that you’re familiar with the basics of programming in Python, you can take those skills and apply them to learning another programming language. Languages such as C, Ruby, Javascript, Lua, Rust, and more use similar concepts to those you’ve learned so far while all having a unique set of applications, strengths, and weaknesses. Learning a new programming language is one of the best things you can do to reinforce your existing programming skills and develop new ones. I’d suggest looking into C, since CS161 is taught using a very similar language (C++)!

- Get more familiar with Linux (or a similar operating system)!
  Most people have only used computers with the Windows or OSX operating systems on them, but the majority of the engineering servers at OSU all run a type of Linux! Learning how to use it isn’t nearly as scary as some people make it out to be, and it’ll help you out if (or when) you need to start working with the engineering servers in the future. OSU has a student club called the Linux User’s Group that’d be a great place to find resources to get you started.

- Make video games!
  One of the most engaging things you can do with your programming skills is creating your own game. Being able to build a game up from scratch—whether it’s a re-creation of a simple existing game or something you came up with on your own—is a really great way to reinforce your skills, since by playing the game you’ll have the opportunity to interact with your code’s logic in real time!
  Lots of free tools exist to help you make cool game—pygame will let you write simple games with just Python code, Unity provides an intuitive development environment for whatever kind of game you want to make (as long as it’s programmed in C# or Javascript), and Unreal Engine 4 is an incredibly powerful tool that is used by major studios to make triple-A titles, if you’re really hardcore! Like most things in programming, it’s all up to you to decide which approach you’d like to take.

- Go Skiing!
  We didn’t really get any snow around here last year, but it looks like that’s going to change this time around. Even if it’s not directly CS related, skiing (or snowboarding) is totally fun enough to be worth mentioning here!