

Computer Lab 1

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Top (do not) tips





From where we stopped last term...

• An indictive timeline:



• Thoughts? Expectations? Confidence?

"There are only two kinds of languages: the ones people complain about and the ones nobody uses."

Imperial College

London



• <u>Weekly</u> computer lab $(2h \times 10)$ + lecture $(2h \times 9)$ + code clinics $(1h \times 8)$



- Assessed by 2 timed assignments will be communicated by the leader
- *Q What do you have?*
- Access to your materials via Blackboard
- Lectures and recommended textbooks
- Online materials on Python

- *Q* What we expect you have known from *Programming* 1?
- Data types: int, str, list, dict, ...
- Control flows: if...elif...else, while, for
- Functions and scopes

General tips to survive & thrive?

- 1) Syntax, syntax, syntax that is everything
- 2) Don't rush but please follow up...!
- 3) "why doesn't my code work?" won't help you solve the issue.
- 4) Use *Stack Overflow/chatGPT* wisely how do you tell if a certain piece of code is good or not?
- 5) Working code is the best code.

"Premature optimization is the root of all evil."

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Modular Programming

Modules (functions) are put together to make up the executable program.

- Functions are separately defined → reusable
- Functions are triggered serially in a main script

```
Example
                                           Import existed functions
import math
                                           from the module math
def pythagoras(a, b):
    c = math.sqrt(a**2 + b**2)
                                           Function definition for the
                                           Pythagorean theorem
     return c
def main():
     a = 3
                                           Function definition to use
     b = 4
                                           the pythagoras function
     c = pythagoras(a, b)
     print(c)
                                            Trigger the main function
if __name__ == "__main_":
                                            to execute
    main()
```

Revision Task - Tic Tac Toe



2 players: X and O play in turn

One possible walkthrough:

Step 1	player X	row <mark>2</mark>	col <mark>2</mark>
Step 2	player O	row <mark>1</mark>	col <mark>3</mark>
Step 3	player X	row <mark>1</mark>	col <mark>2</mark>
Step 4	player O	row <mark>3</mark>	col <mark>2</mark>
Step 5	player X	row <mark>2</mark>	col <mark>1</mark>
Step 6	player O	row <mark>3</mark>	col <mark>3</mark>
Step 7	player X	row <mark>2</mark>	col <mark>3</mark>
Game over, player X win!			

Revision Task - Tic Tac Toe

• A *tie* occurs when the board is full and neither player has won. For example,



It is a tie!

Your task today

Code a Python tic tac toe game in the *modular* programming fashion.

- 1. Consult the sample output
- 2. What functions do you need? Possible things you may reuse a lot
 - Print a 3×3 board
 - Update the cells in the 3×3 board
 - Check if the termination condition reached: X/O win the game? Tie?
- 3. Will the game continue after the current round or game is over?
- 4. Error/exception handling: check user input accept or reject?



That's it for now.

You can now proceed to the Lab 1 exercise.

