

DS2000

2/10 - Fri

### Announcements

- HW4 out now, due 2/17 @ 9pm
- mini viz due 3/3 @ 9pm (no late subs)

### Agenda

1. Algorithmic thinking (min/max)
2. File structure  $\rightarrow$  lists
3. Python

#### 1. Algorithmic Thinking

- Algorithm: steps to solve a problem
- Python has built-in algorithms
  - we want to know how they work
  - may not be perfect for what we want to do
- ex: max of some values  
`cards = [4, 11, 5, 9]`  
`highest = max(cards) # 11`

## How Python's max works

- Look at every color one at a time
- If highest so far, then save it

## Limitations

- In case of a tie, keeps first one
- only tracks one thing

Our version: highest value, 2nd color

• start: highest = 0  
color = null

- look at every color one at a time
- If value  $\geq$  highest
  - update highest value
  - update color

## 2. File structure

CSV File: comma separated values  
like in excel file

Today's: ~~dates~~  
runner1  
runner2  
runner3

1, 2, 3, ..., 31
name, mile, mile, ... mile
name, mile, mile, ... mile
name, mile, mile, ... mile

— .CSV

1. Treat header differently

`infile.readline()` before the loop

2. Iterate over the file with a for loop

`for line in infile:`  
     $\hookrightarrow$  string

3. Turn string into a list of strings

`lst = line.split(",")`