

CS 61A SU26

Lecture 28: Conclusion and Ask Me Anything (AMA)

August 10, 2026

Rebecca Dang

We'll begin at Berkeley time (10 minutes after), as per tradition!

Potpourri

5 min

- Announcements
- Computing in the News

Announcements (1 of 2)

- **Quiz 5 grades [released](#) + Overall Quiz Grade Adjustment:** Replace lowest score with average of the rest
 - Note: If you have an excused quiz, this grade adjustment is applied after regression
- **Final exam is tomorrow Tue 8/11 from 7-10 PM**
 - [Useful Ed posts](#)
 - Seating/alteration emails have been sent earlier today
 - Scheme project is due **after** the exam, but the concepts (e.g. eval/apply, interpreters, Scheme) are in scope for the exam
- **Modified [schedule](#) this week**
 - Today is last lecture
 - No lab, discussion, nor exam prep
 - Limited OH
- **Regrade request deadline for all assignments [extended](#) to Tue 8/11 at 11:59 PM PST**
- **Reminder: No regrades or extensions for Scheme project**, unless you have DSP accommodation for assignment extensions

Announcements (2 of 2)

- [HW 7 due today](#). It's literally just surveys!
 - Final feedback survey (1 point in the surveys category)
 - Course evaluations for **both LEC and EVAL FOR GSI**
- Instructor OH canceled tomorrow, last tea hours Wed (same time/place), and Instructor Virtual OH on Thu 7-8 pm
- **Lecture 25: Web Applications Daylist solution code has been made public** at <https://github.com/abigailrb03/cs294-project>
 - [This directory](#) of the staff solution equivalent of the starter repo
- [Policies on dropping the course vary by major](#), we recommend **talking to your advisor ASAP** if you are thinking about doing this

Computing in the News

- [Google Earth's AI Image Generation Function Pulled in Less Than a Day](#) (Business Insider)
- [Amazon blew \\$1.8 million on a failed AI task — and didn't notice for 5 months](#) (Yahoo Finance)
- [Judge denies request by Elon Musk's xAI to pause Minnesota nudification ban](#) (NBC News)
- [Data Brokers Deny a Million Pleas to Delete Personal Information](#) (Bloomberg Law)
 - "Data brokers operating in California have denied or ignored more than 1 million requests in the past two years to delete personal information they collected from online users, according to a Bloomberg Law review of company disclosures and interviews with industry professionals." (see also: [CA DROP and Delete Act](#))



Google Earth's AI editing tool created a kaiju attacking Downtown Los Angeles. Google Earth AI

Conclusion

5 min

- What have we learned?
- Where can you go from here?
- Don't be a stranger!

What have you learned?

- 3 programming languages and multiple paradigms: Python, SQL, and Scheme
- Fundamental ideas/skills/data structures of computer science:
 - Control flow
 - Recursion
 - Linked lists
 - Trees
 - Abstraction
 - Debugging
 - Interpreters

Where can you go from here?

- **If you plan to major in CS/EECS/DS, take more of those courses!**
 - CS 61B: Data Structures
 - CS 61C: Machine Structures/Computer Architecture
 - CS 70: Discrete Mathematics and Probability
- **Upper division courses are where you find your niche/specialty.** Examples:
 - CS 161: Computer Security
 - CS 162: Operating Systems
 - CS 170: Algorithms
 - CS 189: Intro to Machine Learning
 - ...and many more!
- **HKN (EECS honor society) has a great [course guide](#)** which organizes courses by CS subfield and prerequisites
 - Note: EECS 16A and 16B have been [replaced](#) with EE 66 and 64
- **Join the [EECS 101](#), [CDSS 101](#), and/or [DATA 001](#) Edstems!**
 - ML course updates [post](#)

Don't be a stranger!

- You can reach me via email at rdang@berkeley.edu
- While I won't be teaching in the fall, I'm happy to give advice
- Note: I generally do not interact with students on social media, including LinkedIn (due to conflicts of interest)

CS 61A Wrapped

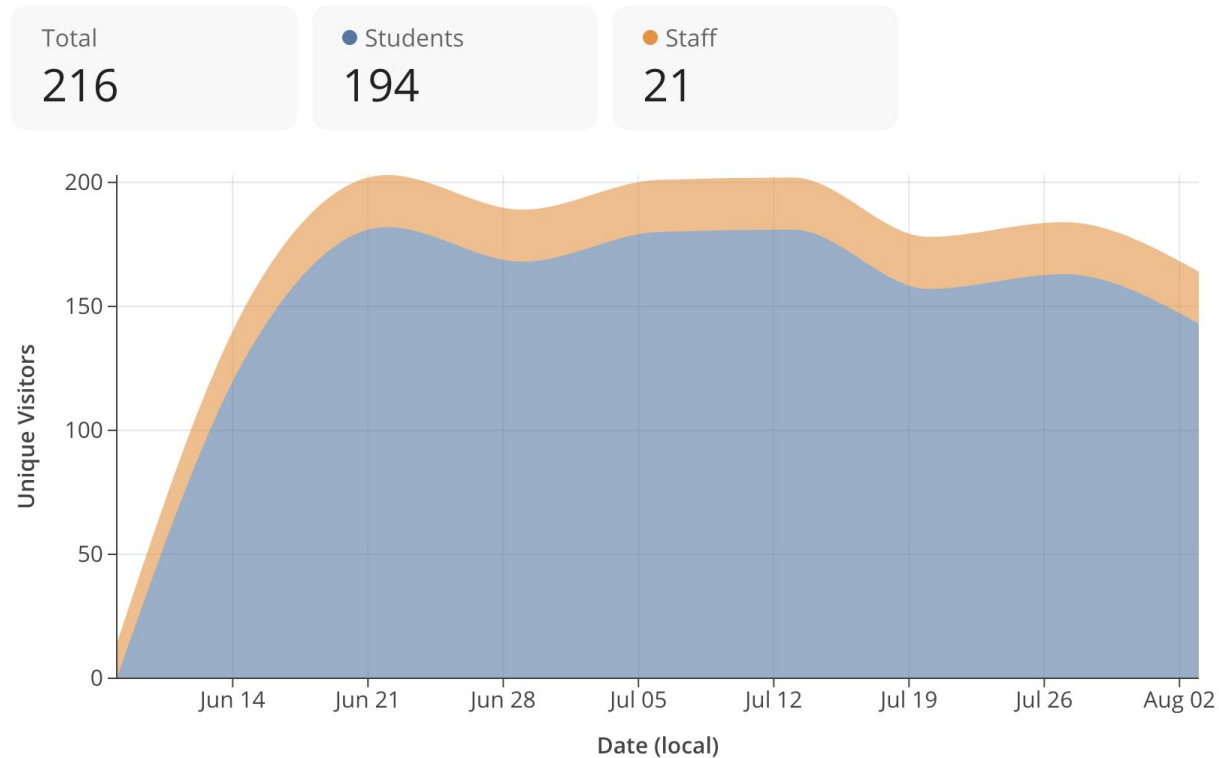
15 min

- CS 61A Wrapped
- Lectures, Assignments, and Exams
- Ed
- Extensions
- Regrade Requests
- GitHub
- Slack and Emails
- Thank You

- It's our final lecture of the summer, so let's take a look back and see everything we've accomplished and learned together!
- Here's some statistics about the course, similar to [Spotify Wrapped](#)

- **So far, you've completed...**
 - 238 (required) problems across disc, HW, lab, projects, quizzes, and the midterm exam
 - 28 lectures (with 14+ typos 🙄)
 - 26 Lab and Discussion sections
 - 20 HW and Lab assignments (including Lab 0)
 - 6 exams (5 quizzes + 1 midterm)
 - 4 projects
- **You've collectively run the OkPy autograder 136,662 times!**
- Every time we write an exam (midterm, final, or quiz) there are **4+ rounds of revision** with **multiple staff members + the instructor**

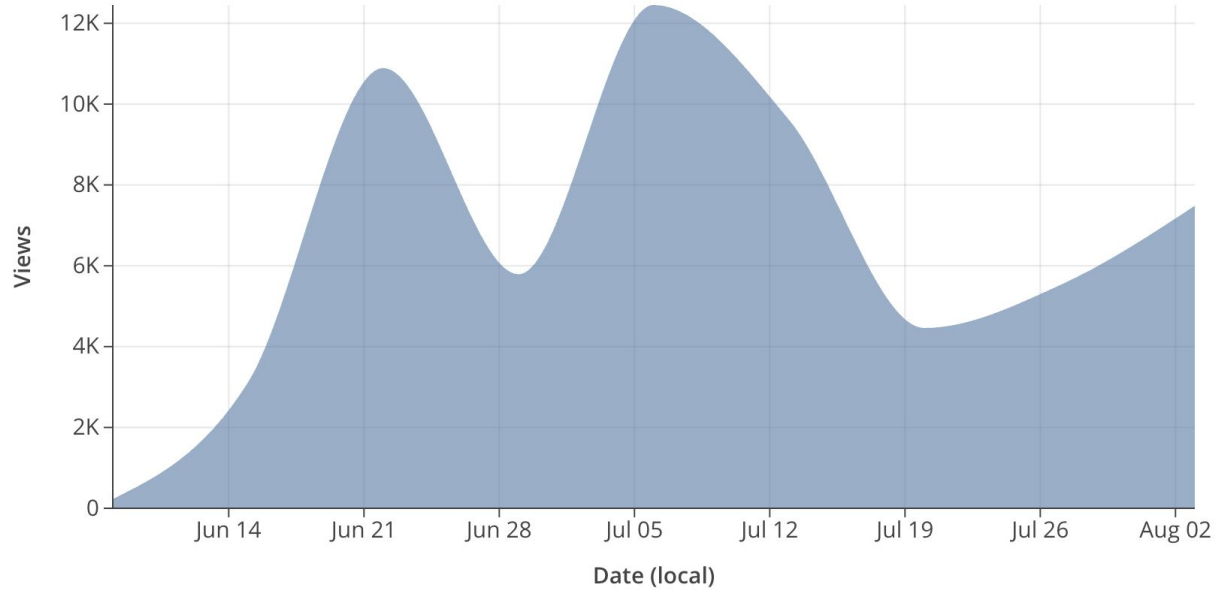
Participation



Views

● Views

59.5K



Threads

[ALL](#) TOP 5 CATEGORIES TOP 5 TUTORIALS

Total Threads

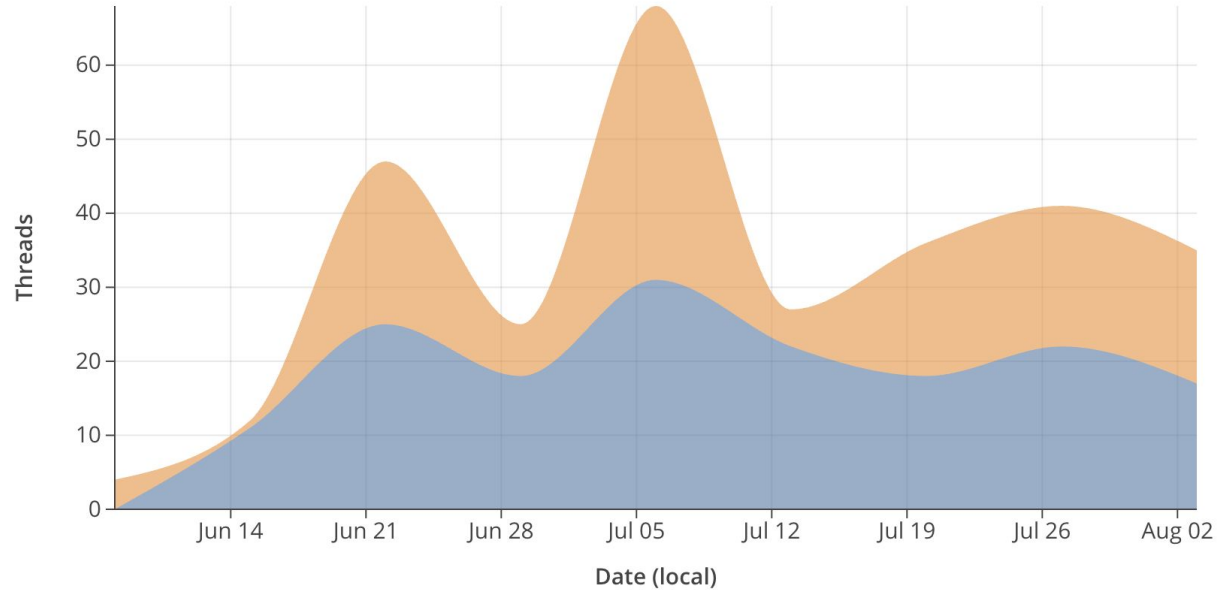
295

• Questions

164

• Posts

131



Threads

ALL [TOP 5 CATEGORIES](#) TOP 5 TUTORIALS

● Projects

80

● Exams

71

● General

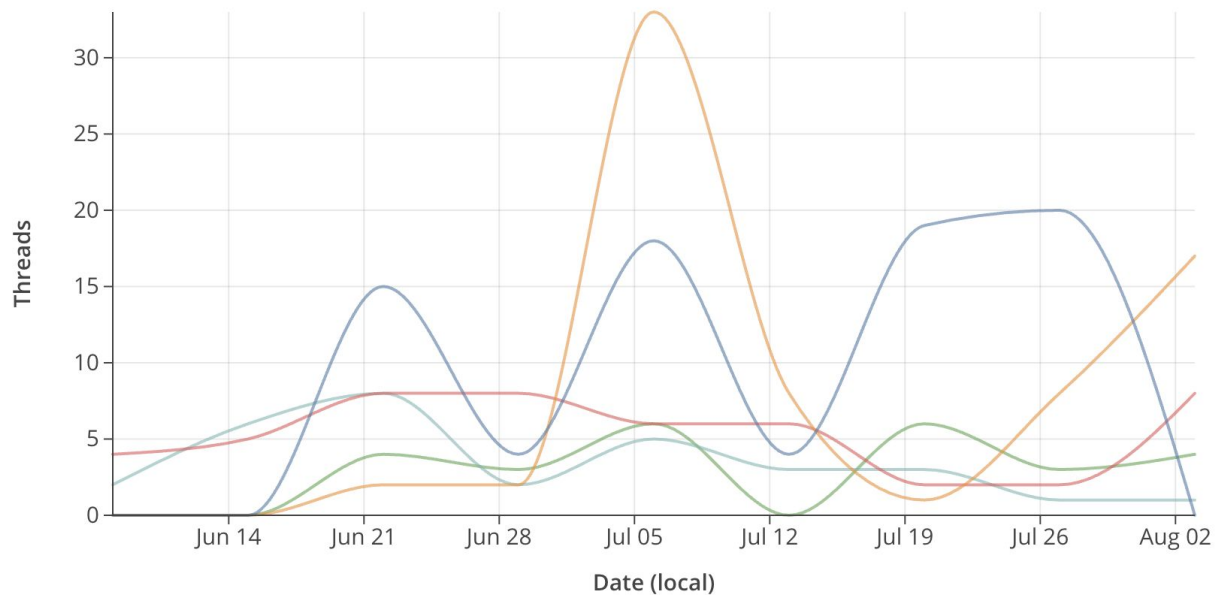
49

● Logistics

31

● Labs

26

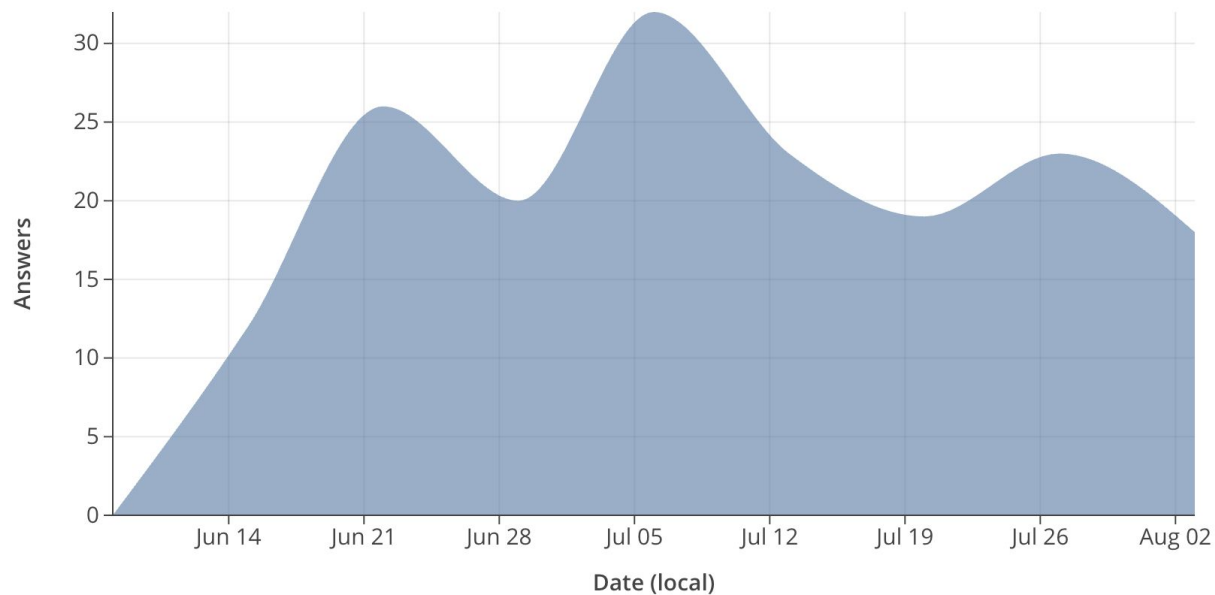


Answers

[ALL](#) TOP 5 CATEGORIES TOP 5 TUTORIALS

● Answers

173

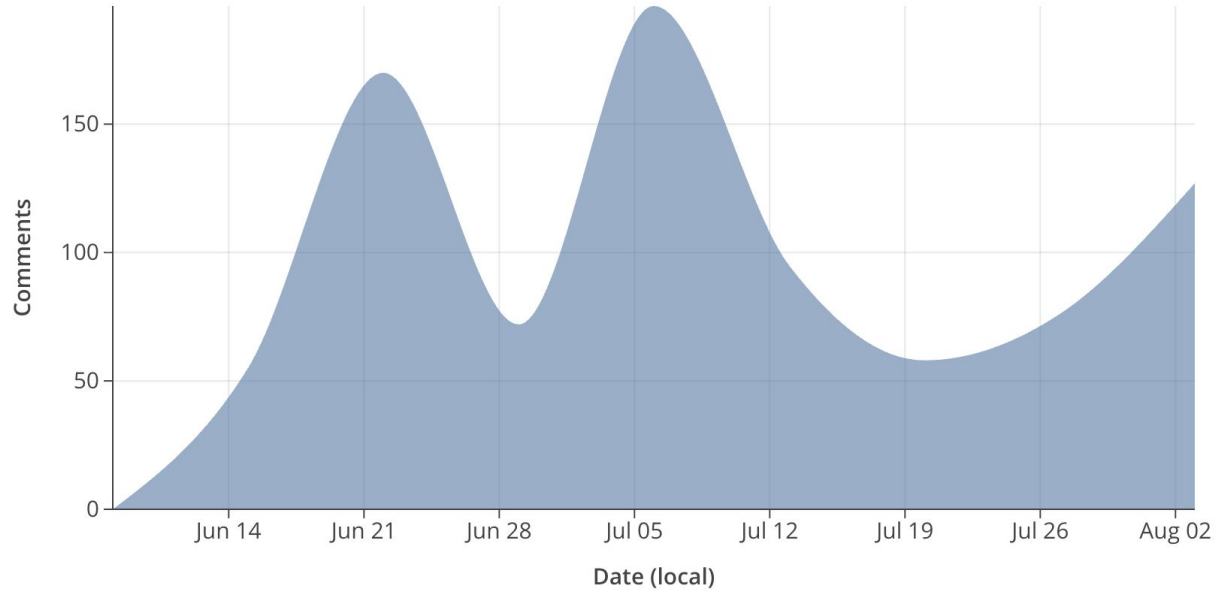


Comments

[ALL](#) [TOP 5 CATEGORIES](#) [TOP 5 TUTORIALS](#)

● Comments

849



Extensions and Regrade Requests

- **Processed 451+ extensions** through Flexextensions
- **Processed 92+ assignment regrade requests** via Google Form
- **Processed 36 midterm exam regrade requests** on Gradescope

- 179 commits to the `master` branch since 6/15/26

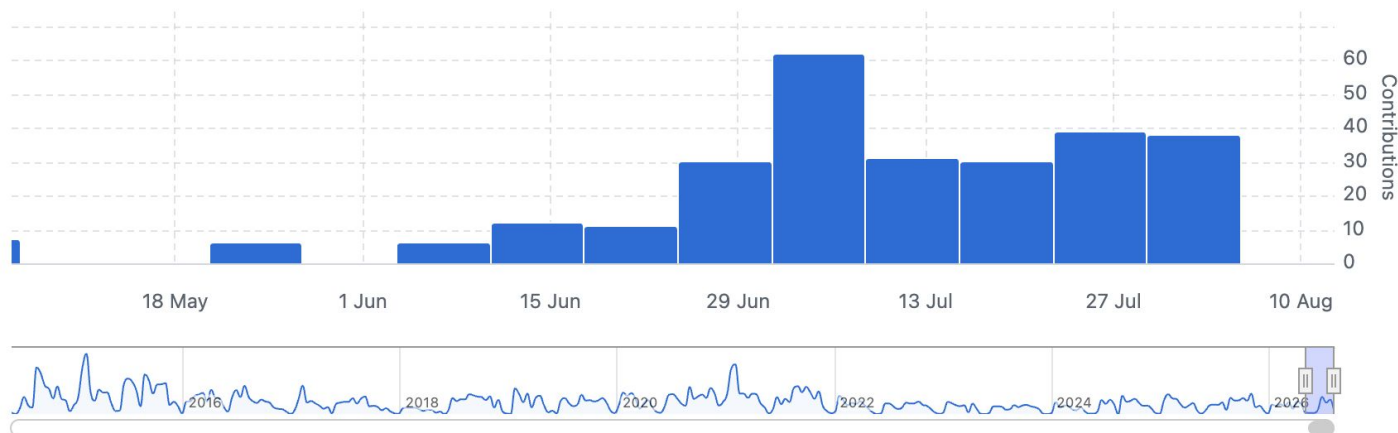
Contributors

Period: Last 3 months ▾

Contributions per week to master, line counts have been omitted because commit count exceeds 10,000.

Commits over time

Weekly from May 9, 2026 to Aug 8, 2026



- **37,832 messages** sent in our course staff Slack workspace
 - **110 messages contained the substring "imsorry"** (it's an inside joke)
 - **101 messages** contained the substring **"cooked"** or **"chopped"**
- **1,663 emails received** in the cs61a@berkeley.edu inbox from 6/15 - 8/10

Thank You

- My parents for supporting me throughout the summer
- EECS faculty (especially **Profs. Dan Garcia, Michael Ball, Justin Yokota, and Peyrin Kao**) and staff (especially **Faye Chou, Hamilton Chang, Glenna Anton, and Karla Thao**) who have helped in various ways behind the scenes
- **OUR AWESOME COURSE STAFF!!!**
 - 10 TAs (especially our head TA **Sriya Kalyan** and admin TAs **Emma Zhong and Amy Li**)
 - 10 tutors
- **ALL OF YOU! ~200 students**



AMA

45 min

- How can I get on 61A course staff?
- How much does being a CS61A course staff earn 🙄🙄
- Why is CS 61A designed this way, teaching the three languages?
- What are the pros and cons for internships, research, and teaching?
- How do you really feel about salutations?
- What has been your experience in CS research?
- What are fun CS course recommendations?
- What's your favorite and least favorite topic in 61A?
- What are the differences between CS undergrad programs at different schools?
- What are some tips for the CS comprehensive review?
- What are some underutilized resources/opportunities for CS students at Berkeley?

How can I get on 61A course staff? (1 of 2)

- **Typical pipeline:** Teaching Intern (TI) → Tutor/Reader (UCS1) → TA (UCS2) → Admin TA → Head TA
 - TIs are unpaid, tutors are paid hourly and have a small amount of fee remission
 - TAs are salaried and have prorated tuition remission
- **TI applications to be released on Ed very soon**, probably ~8/19 (will be posted on the CS 61A SU26, EECS 101, and CDSS 101 Ed)
 - SP26 TI applications example [post](#)
- **To apply to be a tutor or TA**, you will need to (1) submit the [EECS departmental application](#) and (2) you may also be asked to submit a supplemental application (typically released on EECS 101 Ed) and/or do an interview/teaching demo. This is course-dependent.
 - Hiring for FA26 staff has mostly completed or is in progress (you apply the semester before)
- **When will I hear back about my application?** Usually you'll receive an offer at least 1-2 weeks before the semester begins. Sometimes you never hear back :(

- One way to get teaching experience: Join [Computer Science Mentors \(CSM\)](#)!
 - Disclaimer: They are a student organization, it is unpaid, and your experience may vary. However, CSM is generally a well-oiled machine!
 - Source: I was a JM → SM → Course Coordinator → Advisor in CSM for CS 88!
 - [General application](#) (all courses and positions) due 8/26 at 11:59 pm PST
 - I recommend first applying to be a Junior Mentor for either CS 61A or CS 88
 - More info on the [Tech Mentor](#) position (maintain and create software infrastructure for CSM sections)

Is there a minimum grade requirement to apply for being a tutor/TA?

- While instructors can see the grade you received when you apply, some of them take it into account more/less than others.
We don't necessarily want perfect people, we want passionate and effective teachers.
- The [official policy](#) for hiring is:
 - Readers/tutors must have a 3.0 GPA or higher, and received a B grade or higher in the course
 - TAs must have a 3.0 GPA or higher, and received an A- grade or better in the course

How much does being a CS61A course staff earn 🧐

- Academic Student Employee (ASE) wages, including UCS1s and UCS2s, are [public](#)!
 - Wages depend on your title and past teaching experience
- [Full contract](#) between the UC system and the ASE union, UAW 4811

Why is CS 61A designed this way, teaching the three languages?

- The purpose of the course is to teach you problem solving using computer science, not necessarily to just teach you a "programming language"
- Exposure to various languages and programming paradigms helps you be a better computer scientist/software engineer/critical thinker
- 2 of the 3 languages we teach are widely used in industry and academia today (Python and SQL), so it also has practical implications

What are the pros and cons for internships, research, and teaching?

It really just depends on what you want in your life/career.

How do you really feel about salutations?

Question about Macros #356



Anonymous Hyena
Yesterday in Exams - Final



PIN



STAR



WATCH

119

VIEWS



Hello!

I had this as my answer. Is this equivalent to the answer key?

8. (4 points) Macros

The `if` special form has been removed from scheme. Implement an `if` macro using only `and/or`:

```
(define-macro (if p b1 b2)
  '(or (and ,p ,b1) ,b2))
```

```
scheme> (if #t 1 (/ 1 0))
1
scheme> (if #f 1 (/ 1 0))
Error
```

answer is:
'(or (and ,p ,b1) (and (not ,p) ,b2))

Comment Edit Delete Endorse ...

1 Answer



Chloe Xiao **STAFF**
Yesterday #356a



Salutations Anonymous,



Great question!

Let's look at this example `(if #t #f (/ 1 0))`. In this case, since `#t` is truthy, we should return `#f`. However, in your solution, this example would actually evaluate the `(/ 1 0)` case. Since `b1` is `#f`, which

This course has been archived



Anonymous Wildcat
3 months ago in General



You are viewing this thread in readonly mode.

Salutations. Why "Salutations"?

#892

Salutations,

This might be a dumb question, but I've been wondering about it all semester. Before this class, I'd never actually heard people use the word "salutations" in normal conversation, yet it seems like all the staff use it regularly. Is this some kind of Bay Area tech culture dialect or something? Do you guys all just really like the word "salutations"? I'm just curious... no offense intended

13 ...



Chris Dodla **STAFF**
3 months ago #892a



Salutations.

It's a prank that some staff members play. I never actually use Salutations at the start of my messages, they are edited by other staff after posting, consider it an inside joke

11 ...



Anonymous Wildcat 3mth #892c
Salutations!

Thank you for your insightful response haha

3 ...



Chris Dodla **STAFF** 3mth #892b
Salutations.

In a couple hours, there's a good chance this response has Salutations at the start

6 ...



Lavanya Shyamsundar Wednesday at 11:02 AM

its like su24 ppl used to edit nicolas reed's posts with sweet dreams because he kept saying good evening. In su25 we were like haha this is funny we should bring it back,,what is a funny word? oh my salutations

What has been your experience in CS research?

Full question: "What has been your experience in CS research (and specifically CS education research as you mention), and how would you recommend someone interested get involved? What prerequisite skills/projects, etc are required, and what opportunities for this kind of research exist at Berkeley in particular?"

- 1 semester through URAP: Research assistant in the [CHEN Lab](#) (climate change, healthcare, and ML project). PI: Prof. Irene Chen
- Since summer before my senior year: CS education research. PI: Prof. Lisa Yan ([ACE Lab](#))
 - Preparation: A lot of teaching + taking CS ed courses (CS 375, 302, 194-271, 294-189) + developing course infrastructure ([Education Portfolio](#))
- [Google Scholar](#)
- **Ways to get involved:** [URAP](#), [SURF](#), cold emailing professors/grad students, going to professor OH, taking classes for the prerequisite knowledge, taking graduate and/or special topics courses that are research-based

What are fun CS course recommendations?

Full question: "I'm a CS minor and I'm only doing it to have a good time. I'd really like some course recommendations based solely on how fun you thought the classes were :)"

- [CS 161](#): Computer Security
- CS 180: Computational Photography and Computer Vision ([portfolio](#))



What's your favorite and least favorite topic in 61A?

- Favorite: Environments or Recursion, hard to choose
- Least favorite: ADTs

What are the differences between CS undergrad programs at different schools?

Full question: "I'm a high school student and I recently started college apps. I was wondering what are the differences in teaching style/emphasis/vibe among CS undergrad programs at different schools. What are the special resources and opportunities at Berkeley CS that you find helpful? Thank you"

Caveat: I've only ever been a student at Berkeley

- The ability to be on course staff as an undergraduate
- Access to world-class research and teaching faculty through their courses, OH, and research labs
- Academic rigor
- Entrepreneurship/startup culture (e.g. [Berkeley Skydeck](#))

What are some tips for the CS comprehensive review?

I was an EECS major so I was a direct admit, but I asked our course staff and they had this advice (disclaimer: none of us actually know how they decide):

- There may be a lot of course requirements to apply, but don't rush through them and overload yourself. For example, it's not advisable to take CS 61B and CS 70 at the same time. Instead, finish strong!
- For essays:
 - Focus on a clear reason for why you are switching or doing a simultaneous degree AND how you discovered this interest/realized you want to combine this with your current major
 - You may also want to explain why you didn't initially apply to CS
 - Be specific (talk about classes, programs, research, etc. you want to be involved in if accepted)
- Talk to CS students, professors, and research about different classes a lot. Basically anything that helps you get to know the major more. Knowing what to expect after you get in really helps in brainstorming the whole application
- GPA is important but not everything; showing you can manage courses both inside and outside of CS is good

What are some underutilized resources/opportunities for CS students at Berkeley?

- [OCF](#)
 - Free printing, web hosting for student organizations, and a great computer lab running Linux!
 - Check out their [Linux System Administration Decal](#)
- [CSM sections](#): Free, weekly small-group tutoring for all lower-division CS, EECS, and (some) DS courses
- [HKN tutoring](#): Free drop-in tutoring for various CS/EECS courses
- [CS Kickstart](#) (free, student-run summer program for incoming women + non-binary students in CS/EECS at Berkeley)
- [AWE](#) and [SWE](#)

What other questions do we have?

That's all folks.
Thank you ♥ and good luck 🙌