

Naming and Directory Structure

- name your sketches *exactly* as directed – lab2a, lab2b, etc
- to create a new sketch with a specific name –
 - File → New (this opens a new Processing window)
 - File → Save (the first time you do this, it opens the save dialog)
 - verify that the current folder is your sketchbook
 - enter just lab2a (or whatever) for the name – no .pde
- to save a sketch with a new name –
 - File → Save As...
 - verify that the current folder is your sketchbook
 - enter just lab2a (or whatever) for the name – no .pde
- the result is that your sketchbook will contain a folder with the sketch name, containing a .pde file with the same name
 - hand in the sketch's folder (with the .pde file), not just the .pde file

Comments and Formatting

Exercises

→ Put your name and a description of the sketch in comments at the beginning of each sketch. Also don't forget to Auto Format your code before handing it in.

Readability and Formatting Your Code

Most of the whitespace — spaces, tabs, newlines, and such — in a program doesn't matter to the computer. (The only requirement is to separate consecutive words with whitespace.) But whitespace does make a big difference to the humans (including you!) reading your program, and there are established conventions about how to use whitespace to make your programs more readable.

For example, you may notice that the lines of code inside `setup` and `draw` in a sketch are usually indented:

```
void setup () {  
  size(400,400);  
}
```

(In fact, lines of code inside any set of curly brackets (`{}`) are indented — we'll see other cases later.)

→ Indentation is so useful that Processing (and many other programming environments) provide an auto-format tool — choose Tools->Auto Format from the menu. (Once you've written some code, try messing up the indentation of one line or putting two lines on one, and then Auto Format to see what happens.) It's also useful to learn the keyboard shortcut — `ctrl-T` — so that you can auto format frequently. (This can help you find some kinds of syntax errors — if you auto format and things don't indent the way you expect, there's likely a syntax issue near the beginning of the incorrectly-indented part.)