ATM 623: Climate Modeling
Assignment 1
Thursday January 22, 2015
Due: Tuesday January 27 before class (in person or by email)

The main purposes of this exercise are (1) to give me an overview of everyone's level of computing experience, and (2) to get everyone started with Python. There are no right or wrong answers!

1. Describe your previous experiences with computing and computer programming. In your answer, please address the following questions:
   - Are you comfortable with Unix / Linux command lines?
   - What languages have you used for scripting and programming?
   - What sort of programming projects have you worked on?
   - Have you ever learned about numerical methods for solving differential equations (from a course, or independent study, or anything else)?
   - Are you familiar with the NetCDF data format?
   - If I gave you some data and asked you to make a plot, what is your current favorite tool?
   - Have you ever used a version control system (e.g. CVS, subversion, mercurial, git)

2. Read Sections 2.1 – 2.3 of Raymond Pierrehumbert's "Fun with Python" document (available on the class web page), and work through all the Python exercises on your own computer. Comment on something that you found surprising or interesting in the exercises.

If you found nothing surprising or interesting in the exercises, comment on why you are so experienced with Python, and/or why it is so difficult to impress you.