C10552: Introduction to Computation, HW 1

Due July 17, 2016 (optional) For feedback, email your code to <u>oceliker@mit.edu</u> and include [10552HW] in subject

1) The following paragraph is an excerpt from a book published in 1874 [1]:

Can the reader say what two numbers multiplied together will produce the number 8,616,460,799? I think it unlikely that anyone but myself will ever know; for they are two large prime numbers, and can only be rediscovered by trying in succession a long series of prime divisors until the right one be fallen upon.

Find these two numbers.

Implementation notes:

- Keep your code simple: the text mentions "prime divisors", but you don't really need to check if a divisor is prime. Simply try all possible divisors.
- Google (or your favorite search engine) is your friend: if you get stuck, use it. Make sure to append "python" to your search query.
- Running range(...) with a large number can slow down your code in Python 2: if your code seems to run too long without any output, try using xrange instead of range. If you need to stop your running code, you can press Control+C (same in Windows and Mac).