

LAB ASSIGNMENT 4.3

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Lab 4: Advanced Prompt Engineering – Zero-shot, One-shot, and Few-shot

Techniques

Lab Objectives

- To explore and apply different levels of prompt examples in AI-assisted code generation
- To understand how zero-shot, one-shot, and few-shot prompting affect AI output quality
- To evaluate the impact of context richness and example quantity on AI performance
- To build awareness of prompt strategy effectiveness for different problem types

Lab Outcomes (LOs)

After completing this lab, students will be able to:

- Use zero-shot prompting to instruct AI with minimal context
- Use one-shot prompting with a single example to guide AI code generation
- Apply few-shot prompting using multiple examples to improve AI responses
- Compare AI outputs across different prompting strategies

Task 1: Zero-Shot Prompting – Leap Year Check

Scenario

Zero-shot prompting involves giving instructions without providing examples.

Task Description

Use zero-shot prompting to instruct an AI tool to generate a Python function that:

- Accepts a year as input
- Checks whether the given year is a leap year
- Returns an appropriate result

Note: No input-output examples should be provided in the prompt.

Expected Output

- AI-generated leap year checking function
- Correct logical conditions
- Sample input and output
- Screenshot of AI-generated response (if required)

Task 2: One-Shot Prompting – Centimeters to Inches Conversion

Scenario

One-shot prompting guides AI using a single example.

Task Description

Use one-shot prompting by providing one input-output example to generate a Python function that:

- Converts centimeters to inches
- Uses the correct mathematical formula

Example provided in prompt:

Input: 10 cm → Output: 3.94 inches

Expected Output

- Python function with correct conversion logic
- Accurate calculation
- Sample test cases and outputs

Task 3:

Few-Shot Prompting – Name Formatting

Scenario

Few-shot prompting improves accuracy by providing multiple examples.

Task Description

Use few-shot prompting with 2–3 examples to generate a Python function that:

- Accepts a full name as input

- Formats it as “Last, First”

Example formats:

- "John Smith" → "Smith, John"
- "Anita Rao" → "Rao, Anita"

Expected Output

- Well-structured Python function
- Output strictly following example patterns
- Correct handling of names
- Sample inputs and outputs

Task 4: Comparative Analysis – Zero-Shot vs Few-Shot

Scenario

Different prompt strategies may produce different code quality.

Task Description

- Use zero-shot prompting to generate a function that counts vowels in a string
- Use few-shot prompting for the same problem
- Compare both outputs based on:
 - o Accuracy
 - o Readability
 - o Logical clarity

Expected Output

- Two vowel-counting functions
- Comparison table or short reflection paragraph
- Conclusion on prompt effectiveness

Task 5: Few-Shot Prompting – File Handling

Scenario

File processing requires clear logical understanding.

Task Description

Use few-shot prompting to generate a Python function that:

- Reads a .txt file
- Counts the number of lines in the file
- Returns the line count

Expected Output

- Working Python file-processing function
- Correct line count
- Sample .txt input and output
- AI-assisted logic explanation

Code: # Task 1: Leap Year

```
# a simple function that checks if a year is leap or not .
```

```
def is_leap_year(year: int) -> bool:
```

```
    if year % 400 == 0:
```

```
        return True
```

```
    if year % 100 == 0:
```

```
        return False
```

```
    return year % 4 == 0
```

```
# Task 2: CM to Inches
```

```
# a simple function that converts CM TO INCHES
```

```
def cm_to_inches(cm: float) -> float:
```

```
    return cm / 2.54
```

```
# Task 3: Split Full Name
```

```
# a function which divides the first and last names by a space
```

```
def split_full_name(full_name: str) -> tuple[str, str]:
```

```
    parts = full_name.strip().split()
```

```
if not parts:

    return "", ""

if len(parts) == 1:

    return parts[0], ""

return parts[0], " ".join(parts[1:])
```

Task 4: Count Vowels

a simple function that counts the number of vowels in a given string

```
def count_vowels(s: str) -> int:

    return sum(1 for ch in s.lower() if ch in "aeiou")
```

Task 5: Count Lines in File

a simple function that counts no.of lines in a given file path

```
def count_lines_in_file(file_path: str) -> int:

    with open(file_path, "r", encoding="utf-8", errors="replace") as f:

        return sum(1 for _ in f)
```

```
# Main Testing

if __name__ == "__main__":

    # Test leap year

    examples = [2000, 1900, 2016, 2019, 2024]

    for y in examples:

        print(f"{y}: {'leap' if is_leap_year(y) else 'not leap'}")

    # Test cm to inches

    print("170 cm =", cm_to_inches(170), "inches")

    # Test name split

    first, last = split_full_name("Abhinay Kongonda")

    print("First:", first)

    print("Last:", last)

    # Test vowel count

    print("Vowels in 'Computer Science':", count_vowels("Computer Science"))
```

```
# Test file line count (give valid file path)

print("Lines:", count_lines_in_file("file.txt"))
```

Outputs:

2019: not leap

2024: leap

170 cm = 66.92913385826772 inches

First: Abhinay

Last: Kongonda

Vowels in 'Computer Science': 6

Lines: 2