

Introduction to Experiment

Programming Psychology Experiments (CORE-1)

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Session 2 | 17 September 2025

The plan for today

1. Finish last week's exercises (25')
2. Your feedback (5')
3. Introduce experiment (15')
4. Start coding with experiment (45')

Last week's exercises

Tasks for you

```
Barbu@Mac % cd your-path/Programming/Assignments/Week-1/Exercises
```

Those of you who solved Exercise 1.1 only: Solve the next exercises

```
Barbu@Mac Exercises % python Exercise-1.1.py
```

Those of you who only solved Exercise 1: Solve Ex. 2–7 in VS Code

Those of you who solved Exercises 1–7: Raise your hand, we will come and look at your solutions

When done:

```
Barbu@Mac Exercises % cd ../..  
Barbu@Mac Assignments % git add .  
Barbu@Mac Assignments % git commit -m "Week 1 Exercises"  
Barbu@Mac Assignments % git push origin
```

Difficulty of Week 1's assignments

Fill in the form at <https://forms.gle/TPDjfrC3Ejww1q26A>



Expyriment

What is expyriment?

A Python library for designing and running psychology, neuroscience, and psychophysics experiments

It's meant for researchers who need to **present stimuli** (text, images, sounds) and collect responses (e.g., key presses) **with good timing precision**

Pros of expyriment

A **clean and simple** psychology experiment generator, which promotes good programming practices (readability)

It relies on Python, so it aims to be **reproducible** across platforms (we'll see about that!)

It allows researchers to **focus on the high-level, abstract structure** of experiments without having to code low-level timing or graphics routines themselves

Cons of expyriment

It relies on Python, so it's **not possible to run remote online experiments** (for this, you will learn jsPsych later on in the course)

It has a **small user community**, which means that there are not many demonstrations/examples on the web (the interface, however, is very well documented)

Note: This also means that **LLMs will often hallucinate** when prompted about expyriment since the training data is sparse

What does the following code do?

```
from expyriment import stimuli

fixation = stimuli.FixCross()
circle = stimuli.Circle(radius=50)

fixation.present()
clock.wait(1000)
circle.present()

keyboard.wait()
```

Let's dig into it: <https://github.com/barburevencu/PPE/blob/main/Week-2/Instructions.md>