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Intro to Neural Data Analysis

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3/5/2024

Over the course of this semester, my confidence in my ability to code has grown immensely. When I first started this course, I doubted my ability to solve problems in coding when something went wrong, and I didn’t have a strong foundation in the basics of the language. Now at this point in the semester, I feel like I have a strong handle on the basics of the language and an understanding of how Python thinks so to speak. I think my biggest strides have been in “for” loops, and while they are still the hardest aspect for me, I have gotten much better at understanding how the language is trying to iterate through the rows. I have strongly enjoyed the collaborative nature of the class. This hasn’t felt like assignments being thrown at me, or me being asked to learn something on my own. I feel like I have benefited greatly from having people next to me to whom I can ask questions, and the new Google doc in order to get fixes on my code for the in-class portion of the assignments. It is hard to choose an aspect of the class I like the least, but I will say that sometimes when we switch over to attempting to work with the code from the Allen Brain Institute, it feels like we occasionally have to do things that are outside of our current understanding, and we just run the code cell and try not to think about it too much. At the beginning of the course, I thought that a strong ability to problem solve would be key to learning the language, and while I still think that is true, I now stress more the ability to get help from outside sources in order to learn. Being able to look through Pandas or Numpy’s website to understand more about what a specific method or function is trying to do has been incredibly helpful in solving the problems that the coding homework presents. Overall I am very happy with how far my coding has come this semester, and am excited to see how far it will go the rest of the year.