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Intro to Neural Data Analysis

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My experience with coding is actually very similar to the experience of the author of this Slate article. Growing up my best friend was extremely interested in coding, especially considering his dad worked in cybersecurity. I remember growing up and watching him work with Java and Python to create working video games and scripts that could perform hard computations in wonder, and thinking that I could never do that. He went on to become an aerospace engineer, and I am still amazed by the things he does every time I catch up with him. However during my last summer internship at Penn through the Learn Scholars program, my Lafayette alumni that I was working with recommended to me that I learn Python. There was a lot of downtime in the lab, and as he was learning alongside me it would give us both a chance to learn a new skill. Much like the author of this article, at first, I was very hesitant. I had never been very strong in math and had no experience working with anything like this in the past. But just like the author, I learned that through effective use of Google, and online training programs I was quickly able to pick up and utilize the language, and ended up writing a large block of code that was able to graphically display averages of any number of mice throughout a session of 15 trials, and show the groups changes along the way. This article has been very reinforcing of the experience I had at Penn, showing that even without a strong background in math or programming, by effectively utilizing online tools and logic skills, coding is not nearly as scary as it may seem. This article has made me very confident in my ability to learn more about the language, and to succeed in learning any further languages such as MATLAB that I will come across down the road. I am hoping that this course will help prepare me for any future research I perform, as I know coding has become a huge part of data analysis in the scientific field. While I know the course cannot cover every programming language, I hope I get a solid idea of the process of learning and mastering a new language that can be applied to other languages in the future.