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Foundations of Programming: Python

Assignment 10

Final Reflections: Lessons learned

Coming into this class with a bare-bones understanding of any computer programming language and in my case, C++, I am blown away with how quickly we progressed through the material and all the topic that we covered. I’ve looked back at the first few labs, and they make me laugh at how simple they are yet when starting out they seemed super difficult. Now reexamining them, I can’t believe how far I’ve come in my understanding of the Python language and the difficulty in consecutive assignments. When looking at the earlier labs, I am immediately start thinking at ways to improve them using just the little bit of experience that I have gained in these last few months.

My goals that I set for myself back in week 1 were: A) to learn Python to accommodate my data analysis and data visualization in my labs as I progress towards a master’s degree and B) coming away from this course a more knowledgeable programmer. I have to say that I have absolutely achieved my goals for this course. While I was simultaneously taking this course along with a couple of my physics classes, I noticed that, specifically with my physics lab courses, I was able to produce much more in-depth data analysis and data visualizations utilizing the python skills I learned from this course in my physics course’s Jupyter Notebook. Starting this course as a noob and basically just knowing how to create variables and maybe write print statements, I feel confident enough to be able to complete new python projects without the guidance or framework of a classroom setting. I can see myself also implementing what I’ve learned to create new and interesting programs that I can use on a regular basis.

I look forward to the future and the possibility of taking the Certificate in Python Programming course starting in April 2023. With the learning environment that Dirk and Laura provided, I feel confident going into future python courses with the necessary understanding to successfully succeed.