Python/IDL 1 - Tutorial

In this programming assignment you will follow a "Beginning Python" or "Beginning IDL" tutorial. The tutorial is both a manual of commands you can use for future reference, and a series of prompts and questions designed to introduce you both to the specific programming language you will be working on and general concepts in scientific computing.

No matter how difficult certain aspects of this may seem the first time, please **DON'T PANIC**! (It's not like someone's going to blow up your planet for a hyperspace bypass just because you messed up a while loop). Everyone finds these tasks difficult the first time. Trial and error is the only way to move forward.

The requirements of the assignment are as follows:

1. Create a new file in Emacs called "tutorial_log_firstname_python.txt" (or use "IDL" instead of "python" if that's your language) where "firstname" is your name.
2. Follow the prompts in the manual/tutorial step by step. For each prompt on the left hand side of the tutorial, enter those lines into the terminal, and copy/paste both the input and output into your tutorial log file.
3. At every point a question is asked in the tutorial, answer it in your log file. Keep the input/output and questions in order and **number** the questions. (You can feel free to experiment with different commands in the terminal and include them in your log file, but make sure it's clear in the log file where in the tutorial you are).
4. Follow the tutorial through the last question (#24).
5. Send the log file to me via email.
6. Read the rest of the manual, because the information will be helpful later.

Every question must be answered thoughtfully and correctly for full credit.

DUE: Friday October 10 at 5 pm

(Note: I have given you extra time relative to the class schedule)

Remote Access

You may want to work on this assignment at home. You can to the computer lab outside of class or you can work remotely by logging into an astrolab machine from your UNIX or Mac computer. On the terminal line type:

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$      ssh –X username@astrolabXX.astro.washington.edu
```

where "username" is your UW ID and XX is a number between 1 and 29.