

A Guide to The Programming Books

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Programming Books

- ▶ There are two required programming texts.
- ▶ They will be used in slightly different ways.
- ▶ *Python Data Science Handbook (PDSH)*
 - ▶ this is *main* text that we will systematically work through
 - ▶ we'll cover most of it by the time the course is done
- ▶ *A Whirlwind Tour of Python (WTP)*
 - ▶ covers programming preliminaries
 - ▶ this will be used as a supplemental reference

Reading Ahead

- ▶ If you have any inkling of a self-directed project (e.g. any unit of work you want to accomplish) to try in Python, do that rather than reading.
 - ▶ e.g. (1) Excel based workflow that you'd like to port over; (2) a data analysis for your own trading.
- ▶ *PDSH*: I would recommend reading chapters 1-4 as quickly as possible. I will assign this bit by bit over the next few weeks.
- ▶ *WTP*: if you're feeling really motivated, you can read this in an afternoon. It's short, so it's doable. When I began learning Python I did this.
 - ▶ complete all assigned exercises before doing this

How to Read *Python Data Science Handbook*

- ▶ Programming is an **active** skill.
- ▶ Passive reading is of little value.
- ▶ When I read programming books, I type all the coding examples and make sure I get the same answer:
 - ▶ it doesn't matter if you don't completely understand what you're typing
 - ▶ at this point, it's all about reps
 - ▶ at the very least, it's typing practice (seriously)
 - ▶ better comprehension of concepts

Reading Page on Website

- ▶ The *Reading* page on the course website lays out all the reading for the entirety of the course.
- ▶ The readings are organized by subject, and the subject are arranged in roughly the order they are presented in the class.
- ▶ Please let me know if you find any good reading material, and I will add it to the list.