

PHY 250L – Spring 2018

Python tutorial 4

Welcome back to the PHY 250L Python programming tutorial!

Things you should understand after week 4:

- plotting data (histograms, scatter plots)
- defining functions
- fitting a function/model to data
- extracting fit parameter and uncertainties

Problems for 3.15.2018 The following problems should be completed and uploaded to Sakai by 09:45 on 3.15.2018. Each problem should correspond to its own python program (*i.e.*, each problem will correspond to a single file). The preferred names for the files are indicated in each problem.

1. `wash_temps.py`, 50 points

I have placed a data file called `wash_pa_temps_only.csv` on Sakai. This file contains the temperature maxes and mins per day for the years 2000-2009 in Washington, PA. This is actual data!

Make a plot of the maximum temp versus day number. Fit this data with a function of the following form:

$$T(t) = A \cos(\omega t + \phi) + B$$

This function has four fit parameters: A , ω , ϕ , and B . Make sure you supply good initial guesses for these parameters. Use your value of ω returned by the fit to estimate the length of the year. Also estimate the average **annual** temperature from your fit parameters.