

LLM Coding Workflow Workshop

2-Hour Hands-On Walkthrough

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February 10, 2026

Goal

By the end of this session, each participant should be able to:

- Use LLMs in **Cursor** to write new code and modify existing code.
- Use an **LLM CLI agent** (Codex or Claude CLI) for file/system operations.
- Build a small local data workflow: load CSV data, compute summaries, and generate plots.
- Produce a short document artifact (Markdown and optional LaTeX table) generated from local data.

Materials in this folder

- `data/students_scores.csv`, `data/model_runs.csv`
- `src/starter_analysis.py`
- `src/text_utils.py`
- `src/generate_report.py`
- `src/plot_metrics.py`
- `tests/test_text_utils.py`
- `requirements.txt`, `Makefile`

Session timeline (120 min)

Time	Activity
0–10 min	Environment checks + quick LLM sanity prompts in Cursor and CLI
10–35 min	Exercise A: write new code with LLM assistance (analysis function)
35–60 min	Exercise B: modify existing code + test-driven bug fixing
60–85 min	Exercise C: use CLI agent for file tasks and report generation
85–105 min	Exercise D: generate plots/charts from local CSV data

Exercise 0 — Setup check (10 min)

Install uv (pick your OS): *macOS (Homebrew)*

- `brew install uv`

Ubuntu / Linux

- `curl -LsSf https://astral.sh/uv/install.sh sh|`
- `source $HOME/.local/bin/env`

Check install

- `uv --version`

Then run in terminal:

- `cd llm-coding`
- `uv venv .venv`
- `source .venv/bin/activate`
- `uv pip install -r requirements.txt`
- `uv run python src/starter_analysis.py`
- `uv run python src/generate_report.py`
- `uv run python src/plot_metrics.py`

Quick prompts (Cursor and CLI):

- “Read this folder and explain what each file is for.”
- “Suggest 3 improvements to make this mini-project clearer for a beginner.”

Exercise A — Write new code in Cursor (25 min)

Open `src/starter_analysis.py`. There are TODOs in:

- `compute_group_summary(...)`
- `find_top_improvers(...)`

Task:

1. Ask Cursor to implement both TODOs.
2. Ask Cursor to add docstrings and type hints if missing.
3. Run: `uv run python src/starter_analysis.py`

Prompt examples:

- “Implement TODO functions in this file only. Keep output deterministic and concise.”
- “Before editing, explain your plan in 3 bullets; after editing, show what changed.”

Exercise B — Modify code + tests (25 min)

Open `src/text_utils.py`. It contains intentionally weak behavior.

Task:

1. Run tests: `uv run pytest -q` (or `make test`)
2. Use Cursor to fix failing tests in `tests/test_text_utils.py`
3. Ensure all tests pass.

Prompt examples:

- “Read failing tests and patch only `src/text_utils.py`. Do not change tests unless absolutely necessary.”
- “Keep functions simple and robust for edge cases (extra spaces, mixed case, punctuation).”

Exercise C — CLI agent workflow (25 min)

Use Codex/Claude CLI to do a small multi-file task:

1. Ask the CLI to inspect project structure.
2. Ask it to run `uv run python src/generate_report.py`.
3. Ask it to improve `reports/workshop_report.md` by adding one extra section: “Potential failure modes in this dataset and mitigation ideas.”

Prompt template:

1. You are helping with a local Python project.
2. Inspect files.
3. Run report generation.
4. Update the report with a short “failure modes” section.
5. Do not add new dependencies.
6. Show me exactly what you changed.

Exercise D — Plots/charts from local data (20 min)

Run: `uv run python src/plot_metrics.py`

This should generate:

- `reports/score_by_group.png`
- `reports/accuracy_vs_latency.png`

Stretch task: Ask an LLM to add one more plot (example: token usage distribution by model).

Exercise E — Document workflow (15 min)

Option 1 (fast): update `reports/workshop_report.md`.

Option 2 (LaTeX): ask the LLM to generate a table from CSV summaries and paste into a tabular block.

Example prompt:

- From `data/students_scores.csv`, compute mean assignment/midterm/final by group, and produce a LaTeX tabular snippet with booktabs formatting.

Best practices to emphasize

- Ask for a plan first, then ask for edits.
- Scope the edit: file(s), constraints, and expected output.
- Require verification steps (tests, script runs, lint checks).
- Prefer iterative prompts over one giant prompt.
- Keep humans in the loop for correctness, reproducibility, and security.

Common failure modes to discuss

- Silent hallucinations (invented functions, files, APIs).
- Over-broad code edits when prompt scope is vague.
- Incomplete environment assumptions (wrong Python/package versions).
- Data leakage/privacy risks when sharing sensitive content.
- Overconfidence in generated analysis without validation.

Wrap-up checklist

- ☐ I can use Cursor to create and edit multi-file code changes.
- ☐ I can use an LLM CLI agent to run commands and modify files safely.
- ☐ I can generate and validate local data plots and summaries.
- ☐ I understand at least 3 failure modes and mitigation strategies.

Optional extension for next session: multi-agent orchestration where one agent writes code, one runs tests, and one performs review.