

Getting started

Before you start, you should check that a recent version of Python ($\geq 3.12^1$) is installed and that the Python extension² for VS Code is also installed.

Exercises taken from the *Python Programming Primer*³ (and updated with type hints).

Textbook *Introduction to Python for Computational Science and Engineering* (2022), Chapters 1-2.

Corresponding lecture slides from *Computational Science and Engineering in Python*:

- Python prompt
- Functions
- About Python
- Coding style

Exercises.

1. Define the following function in a file called `ex1.py`.

```
def average(a: int, b: int) -> float:
    """Given a and b, compute and return the arithmetic mean of a and b"""
    return (a + b) * 0.5
```

Create a new source file called `ex1.py` containing this code, and then test the function.

```
>>> average(10, 20)
15.0
```

```
>>> average(10, 4)
7.0
```

```
>>> help(average)
Help on function average in module __main__:
```

```
average(a: int, b: int) -> float
    Given a and b, compute and return the arithmetic mean of a and b.
```

2. Define the following test function in a file called `ex1_test.py`.

```
from ex1 import average

def test_average() -> None:
    expected = 3.5
    actual = average(3, 4)
    assert expected == actual
```

1. <https://docs.python.org/3.12/whatsnew/3.12.html>

2. <https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=ms-python.python>

3. *Python Programming Primer*, Hans Fangohr *et al.* University of Southampton (2016)