USC
Computer Science
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Problem Set 0, Jan 15, 2025
(Python Setup)

Getting Started with Python

Many exercises in this course use Python notebooks. We recommend running these notebooks in the cloud using Google Colab. This way, you do not have to install anything, and you can even get a free GPU. If you prefer to work locally, follow the `python_setup_tutorial.md` provided on our GitHub repository.

The first practical exercise is a primer on NumPy, a scientific computing library for Python. You can access the notebook here:

Click on this link and connect "Open with Google Colab": Exercise 0

For computational efficiency, avoid `for`-loops in favor of NumPy's built-in commands. These commands are vectorized and thoroughly optimized and bring the performance of numerical Python code (like for Matlab) closer to lower-level languages like C.