

Sheet 1

Topic: Setup

Submission deadline: 30.04.15

Submit to: mobilerobotics@informatik.uni-freiburg.de

General Notice

The exercises should be solved in groups of two students. In general, assignments will be published on Friday and have to be submitted the following Thursday before midnight. Submit programming exercises via email.

We will be using Python for the programming exercises. Python can be used both in command line and in an IDE for solving numerical computations. Python is freely available at <https://www.python.org/downloads/>. It is available for Linux, Mac OS, and Windows. Install Python on your system in order to solve the programming assignments. A quick guide on Python is given in the Python cheat sheet which is available on the website of this lecture.

Exercise 1: Defining functions

Functions in Python are usually defined inside a file. Create a file named `myfirstscript.py` and implement the following function

$$f(x) = \cos(x) \exp(x)$$

. Next, launch your script as `python myfirstscript.py` in commandline. In Python multiple functions can be defined in the same file and the filename is independent of the function names used in the file.

Exercise 2: Plotting data

Every python file is a script which can be evaluated later. It can contain multiple functions and other numerical computations all in one file.

- a) In the same python script write commands which plot the graph of the function f in the interval $[-2\pi, 2\pi]$ (Python's Numpy module has as a special variable `pi` for π). You can use the constant as `numpy.pi`
- b) Save the resulting plot as a PNG-file to your hard disk.

Exercise 3: Generating random numbers

Random numbers are important in probabilistic robotics so it is preferable to know what kind of random variables are provided by Python and how to use them.

Hint: Use `numpy`

- a) Create a vector with 100000 random variables which are normally distributed with a mean of 5.0 and a standard deviation of 2.0.
- b) Create a vector with 100000 uniformly distributed random variables between 0 and 10.
- c) Compute the mean and standard deviation of the two vectors with random variables. Are the results what you would expect?
- d) Plot histograms of the random variables you generated. The `hist` command can be used to plot histograms. Take a look at `help hist` for more information about how to use it.