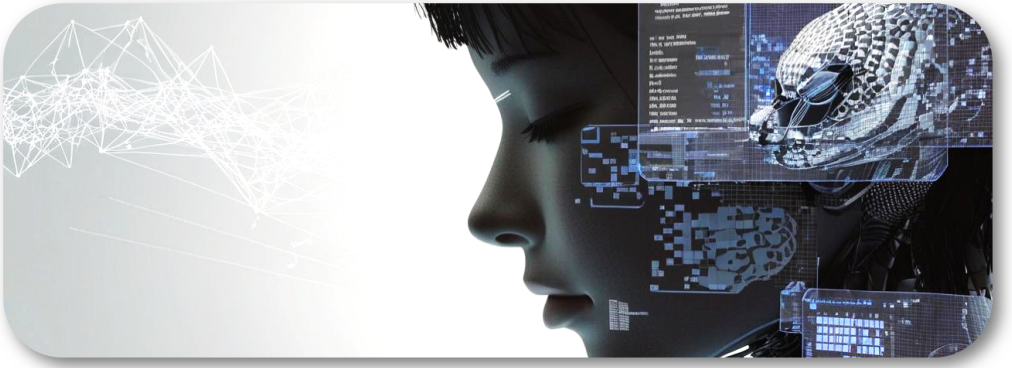


COMP 1023 Introduction to Python Programming

Tutorial 1: Introduction to COMP 1023 & Program Development

COMP 1023 Teaching Team

Department of Computer Science & Engineering
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong SAR, China

Welcome to COMP 1023!

Each week starting from week 2, there will be a lab session.

	Date & Time	Venue
LA1	Fr 03:30PM - 05:20PM	LTA
LA2	Fr 09:00AM - 10:50PM	LTL, CYT Bldg
LA3	We 01:30PM - 03:20PM	LTA
LA4	We 03:30PM - 05:20PM	LTA
LA5	Mo 03:00PM - 04:50PM	LTB
LA6	Fr 01:30PM - 03:20PM	LTA
LA7	We 03:30PM - 05:20PM	LTC

Tentative Lab Schedule

Week	Lab	Tutorial Topic
1	No Lab	
2	1	Program Development
3	2	Python Fundamentals
4	3	Basic Operations
5	4	Branching
6	5	Looping
7	6	Collections
8	7	Functions
9	Midterm Q&A	
10	8	Midterm Review & Modules, Package and Libraries
11	9	More on Functions & Recursion
12	10	NumPy & Matplotlib
13	Final Q&A	
X	11*	Pandas (Exercise Only)

*We will not hold a lab for lab 11

Agenda of Labs

In each lab session, we will spend the first 60 minutes on the following:

- Brief review on your lab exercise
- Introduction to extended topics (sometimes)
- Questioning with iPRS (also for attendance except for Lab 1)

Lab Attendance

We will take attendance for every lab session! (except midterm and final Q&A)
We will talk about how it is taken later.

Agenda of Labs - Continued

We will then spend the remaining 50 minutes for Q&A.

You can ask your TAs about:

- Course contents
- Lab exercises
- Programming assignments
- etc...

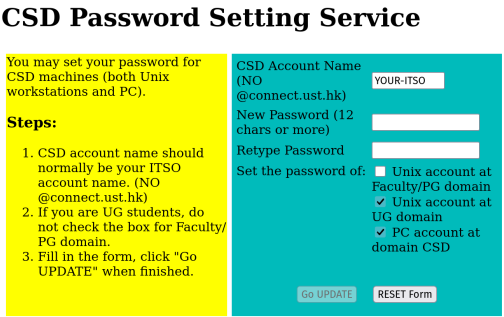
If I have nothing to ask, do I have to stay?

If you don't have questions, you don't need to stay for the entire 50 minutes!

Signing up your CSD account

To access the CSE course website outside of campus, CSE labs and UNIX machines, you would need to sign up for a CSD account.

Sign up here: https://password.cse.ust.hk:8443/pass.html



A guide by CS System: https://cssystem.cse.ust.hk/UGuides/activation.html

Well... How Does One "Survive" COMP 1023?

Assumption

This is an introduction course for beginners, so things should be easy!

This course is for beginners, but only in the way that we do not assume you have any programming background. We will teach you Python from the ground up, but don't expect that this course to be trivial! :P

You will need to keep up with course contents. Don't try to rush the course contents near the exams!

Well... How Does One "Survive" COMP 1023?

Assumption

This course is 3 credits only. The workload should be little-to-moderate!

A 3-credit course, contrary to popular belief, does not imply the workload is low! We try our best to give you enough time for all hand-in labs and PAs. Start early!

More importantly, plan your work! Think about and outline your logic before you write your code. Do not trial-and-error your way through the labs/PAs. It's important to understand what you're doing! Increasing your efficiency (usually) means a lower workload!

Well... How Does One "Survive" COMP 1023?

Assumption

I don't have any programming background. I will be suffering! :(

Actually, we had students with little-to-no programming background get a good grade™!

Reach out to instructors! Reach out to IAs/TAs! We're always happy to answer your questions! Find us after lab sessions (not necessarily your own)! Schedule appointments with us!

Installing Python and VS Code

We will use Python 3.14 in COMP 1023.
In COMP 1023, we recommend you using VS Code as your IDE to develop Python programs.

Follow this guide for installation:
https://course.cse.ust.hk/comp1023/python-vscode/index.html

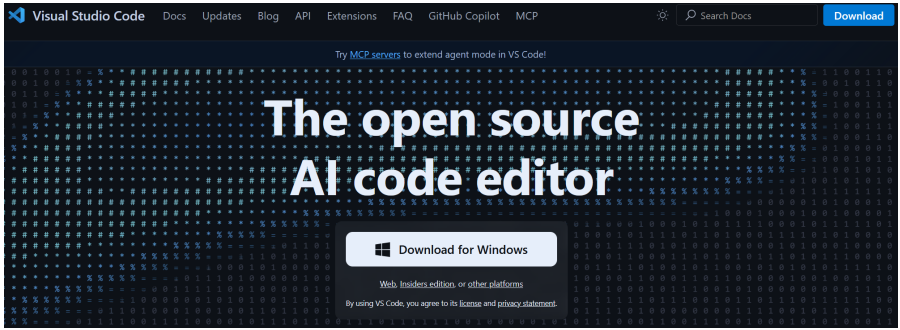
Installing Python (for Windows and macOS)

Go to https://www.python.org/downloads/. Hover over **Downloads**, and select your OS and download the Python 3.14.x installer.

Then, run the installer (`python-3.14.x-amd64.exe`/`python-3.14.x-macos11.pkg`).

Installing VS Code (for Windows)

Go to https://code.visualstudio.com/ and press **Download for Windows**.



Then, run the installer (`VSCodeUserSetup-x64-1.1xx.x.exe`).

Installing VS Code (for macOS)

Go to https://code.visualstudio.com/ and press **Download for macOS**.

Then, open `Visual Studio Code.app`. The `.app` file may be inside a ZIP archive.

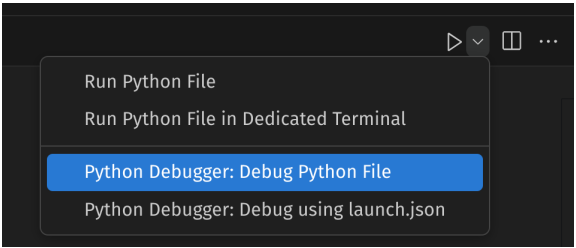
Running Python Programs in VS Code

To run Python programs in VS Code, the basic steps are:

- Create a Python (`.py`) file and write your code
- Configure the version of Python you are using
- Click  to run your Python code

Debugging Python Programs in VS Code

We can debug Python programs using the VS Code debugger:



Features include:

- Breakpoints
- Variable inspection in runtime

Submitting your labs and assignments

We use the ZINC platform. (https://zinc.cse.ust.hk)

ZINC is an autograder platform developed by HKUST students as their final year project!

We will introduce you to the ZINC platform in lab 2.

Piazza

Piazza is a forum that you can ask questions (anonymous to other students!).
The teaching team *and other students* can answer your inquiries.

Please sign up for Piazza using this link:
https://piazza.com/ust.hk/spring2026/comp10231116

You can also access this via Canvas!

Lab Attendance

For lab 1, you can get the attendance point if you complete the "Did you know?" quiz on Canvas before 21st February 2026, 11:59 PM.
This quiz introduces you to course policies and logistics.

From lab 2 onwards, we will use iPRS for attendance.
In each lab, we will have practice questions. At the end of the lab sessions, we will randomly select half of the questions to check, and you'll earn 1 attendance point if you answered all of those.

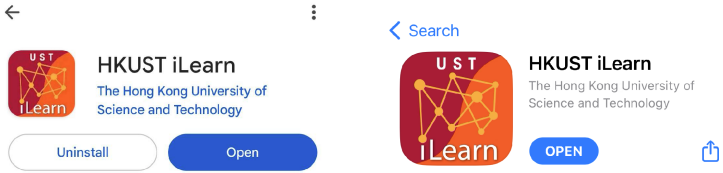
You should answer all of the questions. Answering wrongly will **not** penalize your score.

What if my iPRS malfunctions?

If you encounter iPRS problems, contact a TA in-charge **BEFORE you leave**, and **BEFORE the end of the lab session.**

Accessing HKUST iLearn

As mentioned, we will take attendance from lab 2 onwards with iPRS. To access iPRS, you will need to install the HKUST iLearn app on your phone.



Or, you can access iLearn at: https://ilearn.ust.hk

We have a guide for iLearn app installation here:
https://course.cse.ust.hk/comp1023/iprs-guide/

Practicing iPRS

Let's do an iPRS practice session!

Don't worry, this does not count towards your grade total.

Checking your Lab Attendance

In case you miss your student ID during our iPRS sessions, you can check your submission by clicking into the Google Sheet (corresponding to your lab section) in the following link:

https://course.cse.ust.hk/comp1023/iprs-checking.html

Missing Attendance

As mentioned before, if your iPRS record is missing, you **must** contact a TA in-charge **BEFORE you leave**, and **BEFORE the end of the lab session.**

That's all!

Any questions?