

Python for Astronomy

Learn the Python Jupyter Data Science. Use it for your STEM career.

Python has become the language of astronomy and astrophysics research – as well as other sciences and engineering. Join our Boyce-Astro seminar to get a start in python. As part of this curriculum, we will explore the lifetimes of stars using the Hertzsprung Russell diagram (HRD). We will then learn how to query large amounts of data from the Gaia and Kepler satellite databases using Python within a Jupyter Notebook. We will then analyze and filter this data to plot HRDs for hundred-thousands of stars in our immediate solar neighborhood and distant globular clusters.

| BOYCE-ASTRO ONLINE SEMINARS | | | | |
|--|--|------------|----------|-------------|
| FALL SEMESTER 2025 | | | | |
| Python, Data Science, Gaia Queries, Jupyter, Markdown, LaTeX for Astronomy | | | | |
| MODULE | TOPIC - subject to change | WHEN | DATE | WHERE |
| 0 | Pre-work materials provided | Anytime | 10/10/25 | Self-study |
| 1 | Intro to Python Markdown, LaTeX, Plotting | Fri 7-8 PT | 10/17/25 | Google Meet |
| 2 | Tycho Brahe, Kepler, Newton & Elliptical orbits | Fri 7-8 PT | 10/24/25 | Google Meet |
| 3 | Star Magnitudes, Logarithms - Change is Everything | Fri 7-8 PT | 10/31/25 | Google Meet |
| 4 | Gaia Query & Plotting of half-a-million stars | Fri 7-8 PT | 11/07/25 | Google Meet |
| 5 | Hertzsprung Russell Diagrams of Star Clusters | Fri 7-8 PT | 11/14/25 | Google Meet |
| 6 | Optional show-and-tell student work | Fri 7-8 PT | 11/21/25 | Google Meet |

The seminar will introduce you to Python, Markdown Syntax, Jupyter Notebook and much more.

Our instructor, Chandru Narayan, is a long-time amateur astronomer and has taught Computer Science and Astronomy at The Bush School, Seattle, Washington. He also teaches the BAROspection - Intro to Spectroscopy online course. See Boyce-Astro calendar for details.

Completing IntroSTARS[™] or another Boyce-Astro Seminar is the prerequisite for the seminar. If you have not taken our FREE IntroSTARS[™] or another seminar, please sign up here to start that course. The IntroSTARS Quiz to qualify for this Python for Astronomy seminar will be sent to new students a week before the start of Seminar. Those who have already passed the Quiz need not take it again.

The course fee is \$29 and will be due October 22, 2025

The class size limit is twenty. High school and college students are given preference.

You have received this because you previously expressed interest in the course. If you are interested in taking the class, please complete the application.

Click Here to Apply