

# Teaching Python at École Centrale Paris

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# What is ECP ?

- General engineering school
  - Gustave Eiffel, Louis Blériot, Francis Bouygues, Boris Vian
- Bac + 2 -> Bac + 5
- 500 students / year
- Theoretical background (math, physics)
- < 5% will program for a living

# Teaching programming ?

- To talk with (understand) programmers
- To understand how a computer works
- ... and what it can do
- We don't teach Python
  - building a program
  - understanding and solving a problem
- Crash course (16 hours + 12 h lab)

# Past

- Fortran
- Aladin (home-made language and learning environment)
- Pascal
- C
- C++

# Python benefits

- Interpreted
- Simple syntax
- Usable by more advanced students
- Free and easy to install
  - no need of a computer lab
  - students use their own computer



# Conclusion

- Python (has been used for 2 years) led to an increase in student's interest in the course
- Some student started to use it out of school
- We will use it again next year
- <http://www.etudes.ecp.fr/>