

How to run Spyder in virtual environment?



I have been using Spyder installed with with Anaconda distribution which uses Python 2.7 as default. Currently I need to set up a development virtual environment with Python 3.4.

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Top two suggestions after research online are:



1. to set up virtual environment first and to point change the preferences of Spyder , e.g [here](#);



2. to install all Spyder dependencies, like PyQt4, in the virtual environment itself, e. g. [here](#) ;

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Both recommendations are cumbersome and do not look like smart options for development.

Is there a solution that would allow to run Spyder with required Python version automatically after activating the required virtual environment?

python

python-3.x

virtualenv

anaconda

spyder

edited May 23 '17 at 11:54



Community ♦

1 1

asked May 11 '15 at 14:33



tomaskazemekas

2,442 2 21 29

6 Answers



There is an option to [create virtual environments in Anaconda](#) with required Python version.

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```
conda create -n mvenv python=3.4
```

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```
source activate myenv    # (in linux, you can use . as a shortcut for "source")
activate myenv           # (in windows - note that you should be in your c:\anaconda2
                          directory)
```

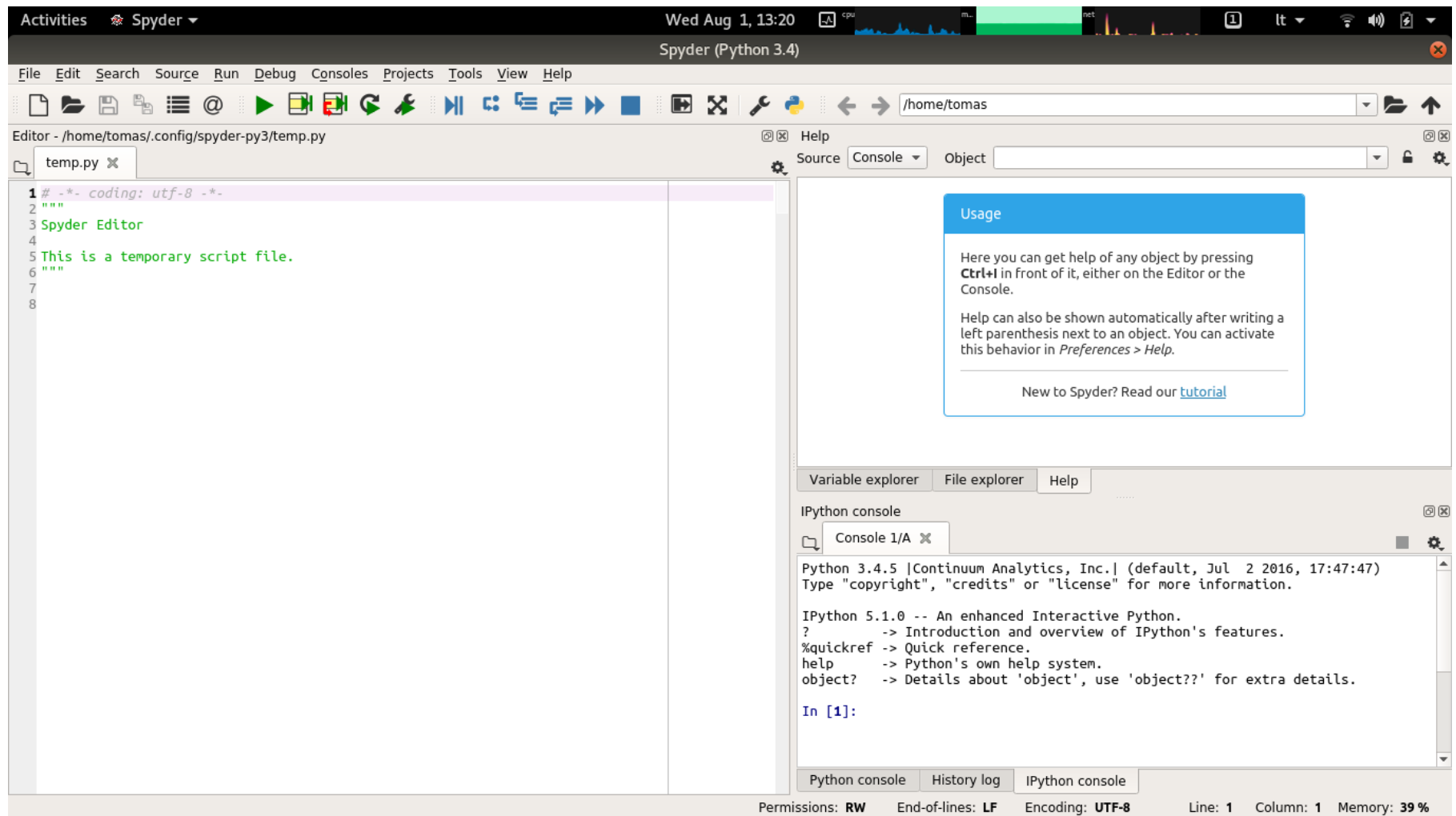
UPDATE. I have tested it with Ubuntu 18.04. Now you have to install spyder additionally for the new environment with this command (after the activation of the environment with the command above):

```
conda install spyder
```

(I have also tested the installation with pip, but for Python 3.4 or older versions, it breaks with the library dependencies error that requires manual installation.)

And now to run Spyder with Python 3.4 just type:

```
spyder
```



edited Aug 1 '18 at 10:35

answered May 11 '15 at 14:33



tomaskazemekas

2,442 2 21 29

- 5 I have tested this on Windows 7 and it worked. You don't need to add the word "source" at the beginning to activate the environment. To have Python 2,7, change the setting to python=2.7. – tomaskazemekas Nov 24 '15 at 12:29
- 4 oh maybe you have to install spyder into that environment first? I created the environment with numpy instead of anaconda, so maybe it's running spyder from the main environment? – endolith Dec 27 '15 at 3:51

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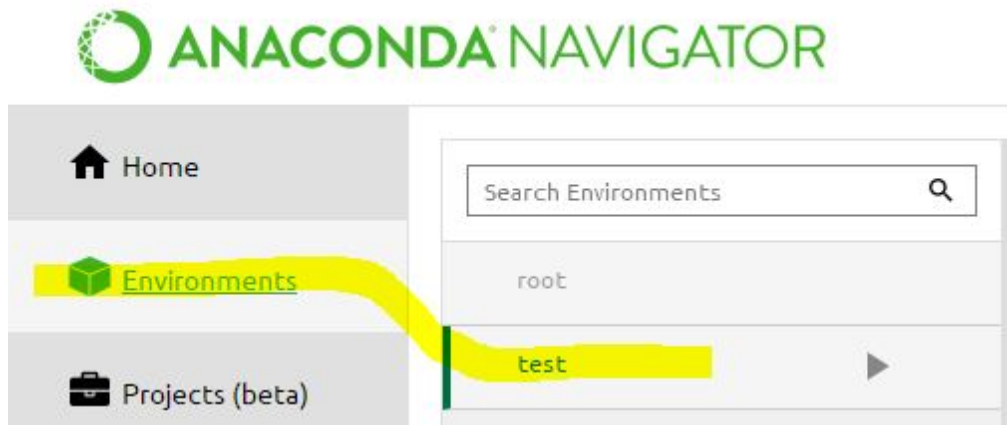
I also found that on windows(10), just launching spyder from an anaconda environment still launched spyder with my default python, and I had to conda install spyder in the anaconda environment first to open spyder with that environment's python. – [Max Power](#) Sep 27 '16 at 19:34

8 Also make sure you have spyder in that environment by `conda install -n myenv spyder` – [shahar_m](#) Jan 19 '17 at 14:05

Here is a quick way to do it in 2019. Using the Anaconda Navigator:

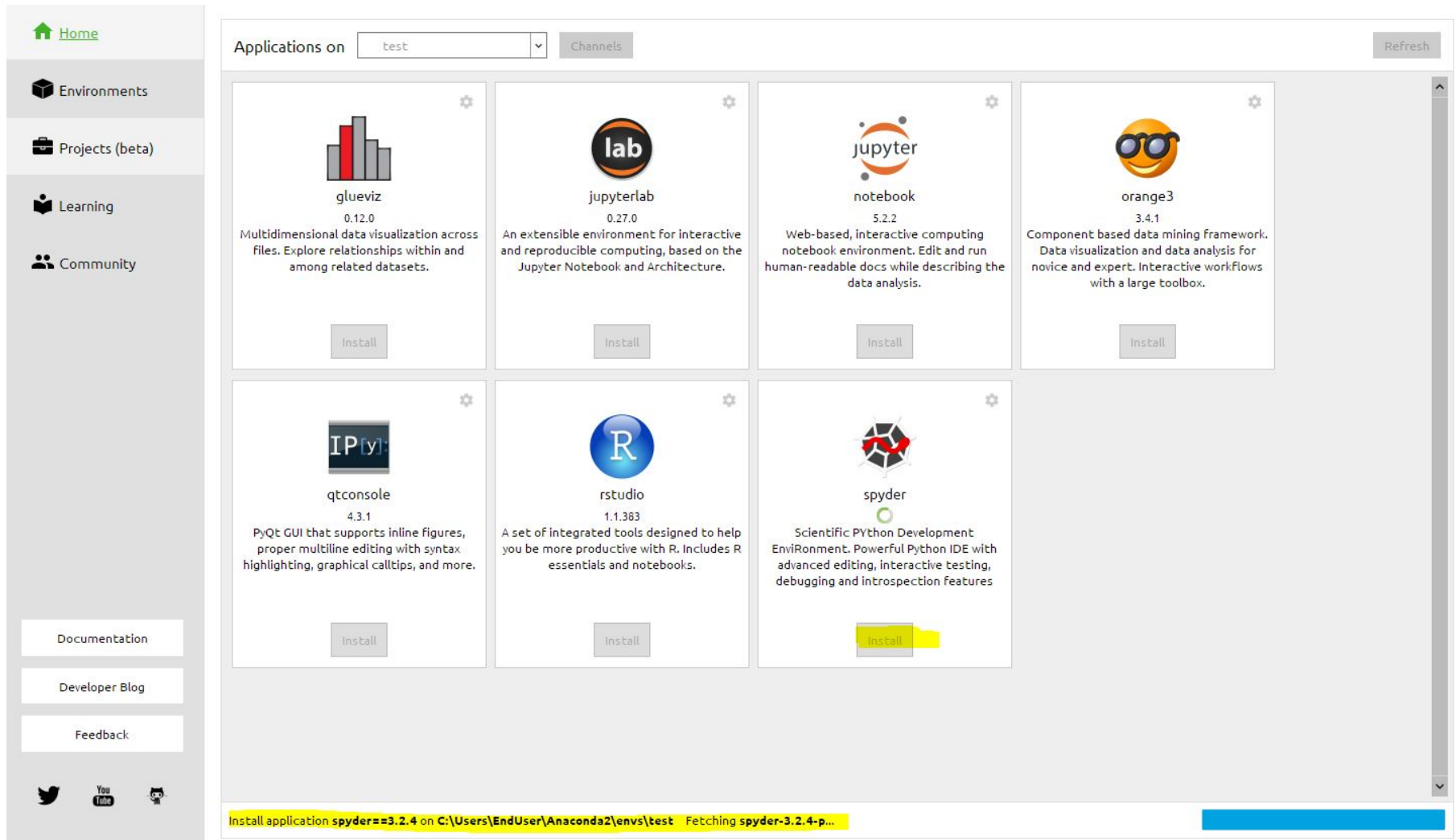
68

1. Open Anaconda Navigator
2. Create your new environment as you wish. I named this environment "test". Click on it to activate it.



3. Go to "Home" and click on "Install" under the Spyder box.

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4. Click "Launch/Run"

There are still some minor bugs when setting up your environment (most of which are solved by restarting the Navigator), if you find a bug, please post it in [Anaconda Issues](#) bug-tracker. Thanks.

If even then this doesn't work, Navigator could still be useful, clicking on >Enviroments takes you to a management window for the

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Anaconda Navigator

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base (root)

DJ_RESIL1

DJ_RESILIOS

Not installed Channels Update index... Search Packages

Name	T	Description	Version
<input type="checkbox"/> sphinxcontrib-websupport		Sphinx api for web apps	1.0.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> spyder		Scientific python development environment	3.2.3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> spyder-app			2.3.8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> spyder-kernels			1.0.1
<input type="checkbox"/> sqlalchemy		Python sql toolkit and object relational mapper	1.1.13
<input type="checkbox"/> sqlalchemy-utils			0.33.3
<input type="checkbox"/> sqlite		Sql database engine	3.13.0
<input type="checkbox"/> sqlparse		Non-validating sql parser module	0.2.3
<input type="checkbox"/> ssh		Ssh2 protocol library	1.8.0
<input type="checkbox"/> ssl_match_hostname		The ssl.match_hostname() function from python 3.4	3.5.0.1
<input type="checkbox"/> statistics			1.0.3.5
<input type="checkbox"/> statsmodels		Statistical computations and models	0.8.0

Create Clone Import Remove

Loading packages of C:\Users\Akua Capital\Anaconda2\envs\DJ_ Cancel Apply Clear

edited Jan 8 at 17:52

answered Dec 3 '17 at 5:05



adelriosantiago

2,345 2 19 40

8 This should be added to the top solution if possible – [dward4](#) Feb 7 '18 at 13:41

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... way, way better. – [Eric Auld](#) May 21 '16 at 1:10

Yeah. Seems like one has to install a different instance of Spyder for each VE. – [Mikhail Genkin](#) Jul 31 '18 at 19:24

Can I do this from the command line? Running Navigator each time seems like a drag... – [nocibambi](#) Feb 9 at 12:55

Additional to tomaskazemekas's answer: you should install spyder in that virtual environment by:

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```
conda install -n myenv spyder
```

(on Windows, for Linux or MacOS, you can search for similar commands)

answered Mar 15 '16 at 8:44



[Tin Luu](#)

1,039 8 14

2 Spyder is usually installed as part of Anaconda Python [package list](#). Additional installation may be needed only in case of miniconda. – [tomaskazemekas](#) Mar 15 '16 at 9:20

1 Yes, that's right. In my case, I had my virtual environment installed before, and it's a light version, I only install very necessary packages. I guess there are someone being in my situation. – [Tin Luu](#) Apr 25 '16 at 3:18

What worked for me :

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1. run spyder from the environment (after source activate)
2. go to Tools --> preferences --> python Interpreter and select the python file from the env you want to link to spyder ex :
/home/you/anaconda3/envs/your_env/bin/python

Worked on ubuntu 16, spyder3, python3.6.

edited Jul 20 '17 at 15:38



[Oussema Aroua](#)

4,239 1 17 37

answered Jul 20 '17 at 15:26



[Boussad](#)

261 3 2

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After trying all the rest of this and elsewhere posts (two days trying!), this was the only working solution in order to set the proper environment envs inside Spider.. – [Antonio Canepa](#) Sep 3 '18 at 10:57

Don't require step (1), since step (2) already routed the interpreter to the environment. – [Feras](#) May 30 at 5:24

The above answers are correct but I calling `spyder` within my virtualenv would still use my `PATH` to look up the version of spyder in my default anaconda env. I found [this answer](#) which gave the following workaround:

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```
source activate my_env          # activate your target env with spyder installed
conda info -e                  # look up the directory of your conda env
find /path/to/my/env -name spyder # search for the spyder executable in your env
/path/to/my/env/then/to/spyder   # run that executable directly
```

I chose this over modifying `PATH` or adding a link to the executable at a higher priority in `PATH` since I felt this was less likely to break other programs. However, I did add an alias to the executable in `~/.bash_aliases`.

edited Jul 1 '17 at 19:36

answered Jul 1 '17 at 19:31



[Steven Kalt](#)

538 8 13

I just had the same problem trying to get Spyder to run in Virtual Environment.

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The solution is simple:

Activate your virtual environment.

Then pip install Spyder and its dependencies (PyQt5) in your virtual environment.

Then launch Spyder3 from your virtual environment CLI.

It works fine for me now.

answered May 24 '17 at 14:03



[Jerusalem Programmer](#)

162 2 13

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Python 2 is deprecated. It is recommended and advisable to upgrade yourself to using Python 3. – [Jerusalem Programmer](#) Nov 30 '18 at 6:24

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