An Introduction to the PyData World

Jake VanderPlas @jakevdp Index Conf 2018



\$ whoami jakevdp





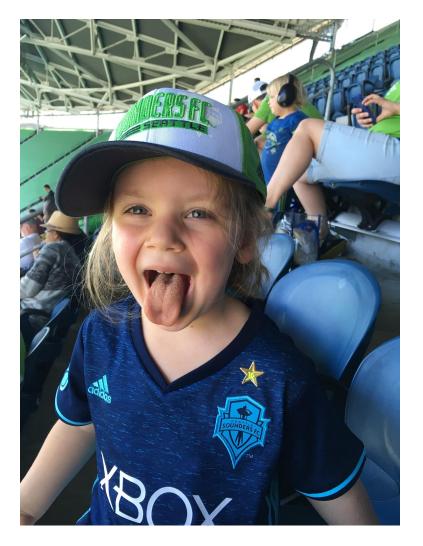






\$ whoami
jakevdp









\$ whoami
jakevdp



Blog:



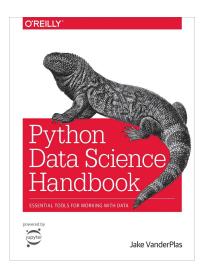
Code:

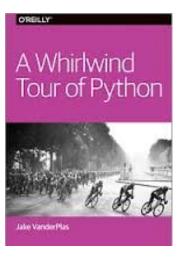


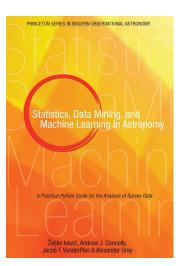




Books:







History: how Python led to PyData

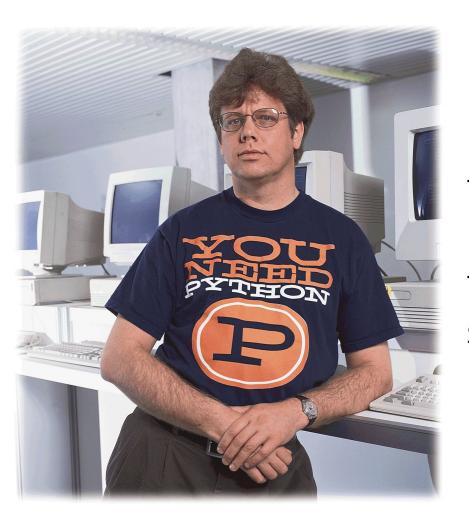
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Tools: Getting to know the landscape

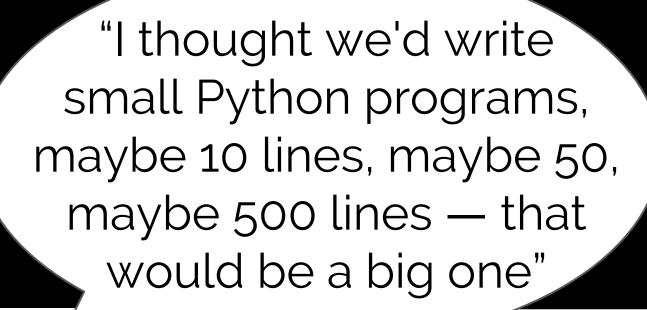
Python is not a data science language.







Python was created in the 1980s as a teaching language, and to "bridge the gap between the shell and C" ¹



How did Python become a data science powerhouse?

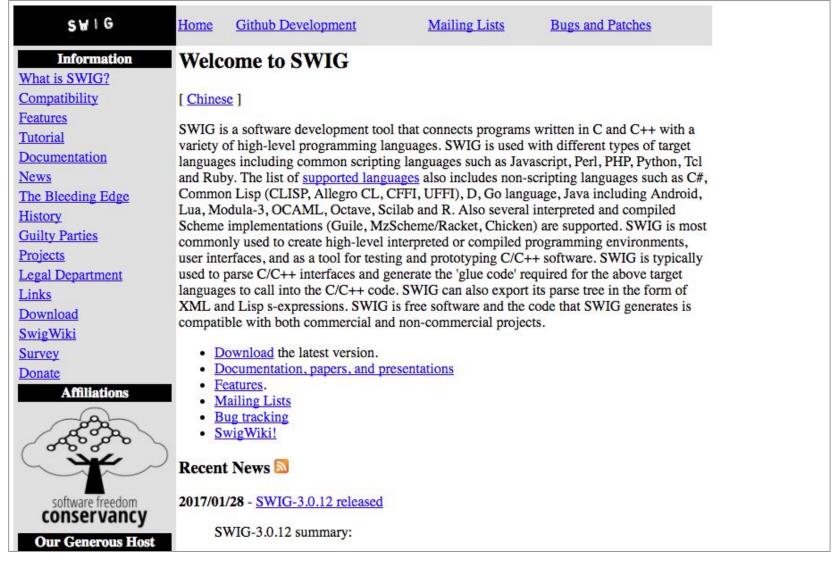
Motto: "Python as Alternative to Bash"

"Scientists... work with a wide variety of systems ranging from simulation codes, data analysis packages, databases, visualization tools, and home-grown software-each of which presents the user with a different set of interfaces and file formats. As a result, a scientist may spend a considerable amount of time simply trying to get all of these components to work together in some manner..."



David Beazley
 Scientific Computing with Python
 (ACM vol. 216, 2000)

"Simplified Wrapper and Interface Generator" (SWIG)



2000s: The SciPy Era

2000s: The SciPy Era

Motto: "Python as Alternative to MatLab"

"I had a hodge-podge of work processes. I would have Perl scripts that called C++ numerical routines that would dump data files, and I would load them up into MatLab to plot them. After a while I got tired of the MatLab dependency... so I started loading them up in GnuPlot."

-**John Hunter** creator of Matplotlib *SciPy 2012 Keynote*



"Prior to Python, I used Perl (for a year) and then Matlab and shell scripts & Fortran & C/C++ libraries. When I discovered Python, I really liked the language... But, it was very nascent and lacked a lot of libraries. I felt like I could add value to the world by connecting low-level libraries to high-level usage in Python."

- **Travis Oliphant** creator of NumPy & SciPy *via email, 2015*



"I remember looking at my desk, and seeing all the books on languages I had. I literally had a stack with books on C, C++, Unix utilities (awk/sed/sh/etc), Perl, IDL manuals, the Mathematica book, Make printouts, etc. I realized I was probably spending more time switching between languages than getting anything done.."



- **Fernando Perez** creator of IPython *via email, 2015*

Key Software Development:





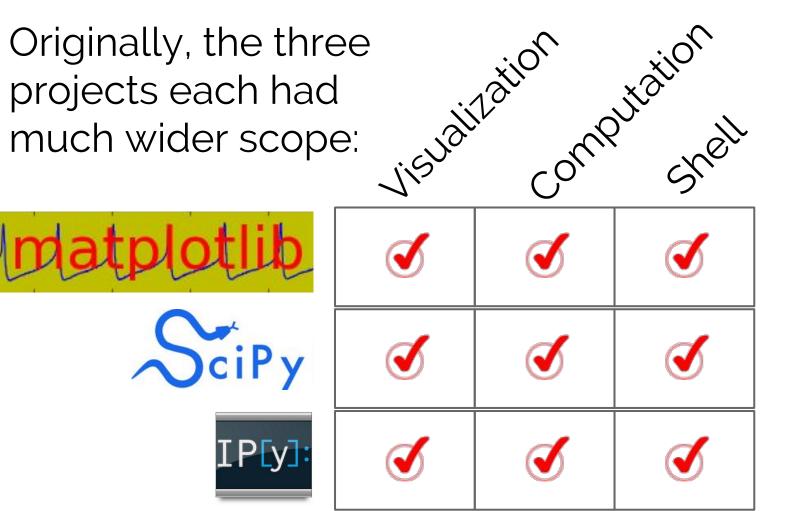
SciPy Released circa 2000



IPIVI Released circa 2001

Numarray 1995 Numeric 2002 (Early array libraries)

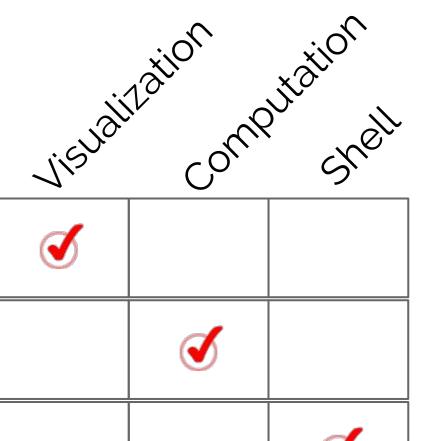
Originally, the three projects each had much wider scope:



Numarray Numeric

Array Manipulation

With time, the projects narrowed their focus:



SciPy

matplotlib.

IP[y]:



Unified Array Library Underneath

2000s: The SciPy Era

2010s: The PyData Era

2000s: The SciPy Era

2010s: The PyData Era

Motto: "Python as Alternative to R"

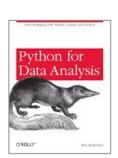
2010s: The PyData Era

"I had a distinct set of requirements that were not well-addressed by any single tool at my disposal:

- Data structures with labeled axes . . .
- Integrated time series functionality . . .
- Arithmetic operations and reductions . . .
- Flexible handling of missing data
- Merge and other relational operations . . .

I wanted to be able to do all these things in one place, preferably in a language well-suited to general purpose software development"

Wes McKinney
 creator of Pandas
 (in Python for Data Analysis)





2010s: The PyData Era

Key Software Development:









2011: Labeled data



2010: Machine Learning



2012: Packaging

IP[y]: Notebook 2012: Compute Environment



2015: polyglot notebook

Motto: "Python as Alternative to Bash"

2000s: The SciPy Era

Motto: "Python as Alternative to MatLab"

2010s: The PyData Era

Motto: "Python as Alternative to R"

People *want* to use Python because of its intuitiveness, beauty, philosophy, and readability.

People want to use Python because of its intuitiveness, beauty, philosophy, and readability.

So people build Python packages that incorporate lessons learned in other tools & communities.

A Quick Tour of the PyData World . . .



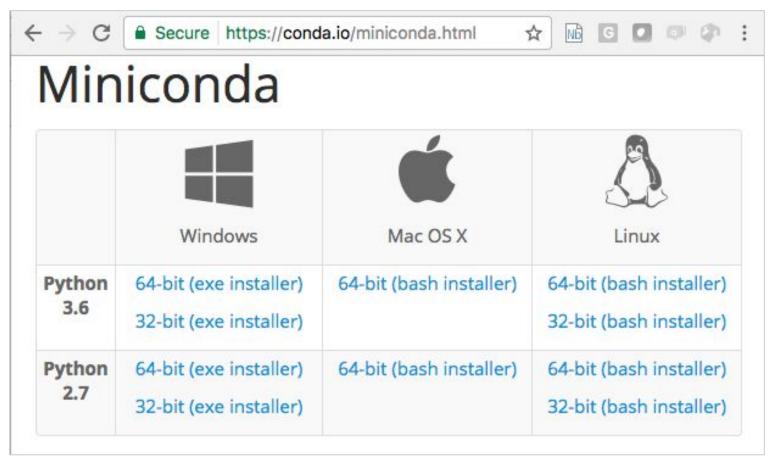
Conda is a cross-platform package and dependency manager, focused on Python for scientific and data-intensive computing,

It comes in two flavors:

- Miniconda is a minimal install of the conda command-line tool
- *Anaconda* is miniconda plus hundreds of common packages.

I recommend Miniconda.





Anaconda and Miniconda are both available for a wide range of operating systems.



```
$ bash ~/Downloads/Miniconda3-latest-MacOSX-x86 64.sh
Welcome to Miniconda3 4.3.21 (by Continuum Analytics, Inc.)
In order to continue the installation process, please review
the license
agreement.
Please, press ENTER to continue
>>>
```

Miniconda is a lightweight installation (~25MB) that gives you access to the **conda** package management tool. It creates a sandboxed Python installation, entirely disconnected from your system Python.



```
$ which conda
/Users/jakevdp/anaconda/bin/conda
$ which python
/Users/jakevdp/anaconda/bin/python
$ python
Python 3.5.1 | Continuum Analytics, Inc. | (default ...
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" ...
>>> print("hello world")
hello world
```

Both conda and python now point to the executables installed by miniconda.



```
$ conda install numpy scipy pandas matplotlib jupyter
Fetching package metadata .....
Solving package specifications: .
Package plan for installation in environment
/Users/jakevdp/anaconda/:
The following NEW packages will be INSTALLED:
                        0.1.0-py36 0
    appnope:
    bleach:
                        1.5.0-py36 0
                        0.10.0-py36 0
    cycler:
    decorator:
                        4.0.11-py36 0
```

Installation of new packages can be done seamlessly with conda install



```
$ conda create -n py2.7 python=2.7 numpy=1.13 scipy
Fetching package metadata .....
Solving package specifications: .
Package plan for installation in environment
/Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/py2.7:
The following NEW packages will be INSTALLED:
   mkl: 2017.0.3-0
   numpy: 1.13.0-py27 0
   openssl: 1.0.21-0
   pip:
               9.0.1-py27 1
```

New sandboxed environments can be created with specific versions of Python and its packages. Here we create an environment named py2.7 with Python 2.7



```
$ conda activate python2.7

(python2.7) $ which python
/Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/python2.7/bin/python

(python2.7) $ python --version
Python 2.7.11 :: Continuum Analytics, Inc.
```

By "activating" the environment, we can now use this different Python version with a different set of packages. You can create as many of these environments as you'd like.

Installation



```
$ conda env list
  conda environments:
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/astropy-dev
astropy-dev
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/jupyterlab
jupyterlab
python2.7
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/python2.7
python3.3
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/python3.3
python3.4
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/python3.4
python3.5
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/python3.5
python3.6
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/python3.6
scipy-dev
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/scipy-dev
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/sklearn-dev
sklearn-dev
vega-dev
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda/envs/vega-dev
root
                   /Users/jakevdp/anaconda
```

I tend to use conda envs for just about everything, particularly when testing development versions of projects I contribute to.

Installation



So... what about pip?

In brief:

"pip installs python packages within any environment; conda installs any package within conda environments"

For many more details on the distinctions, see my blog post, Conda: Myths and Misconceptions.¹



\$ conda install jupyter notebook



\$ jupyter notebook

[I 06:32:22.641 NotebookApp] Serving notebooks from local directory:
/Users/jakevdp

[I 06:32:22.641 NotebookApp] 0 active kernels

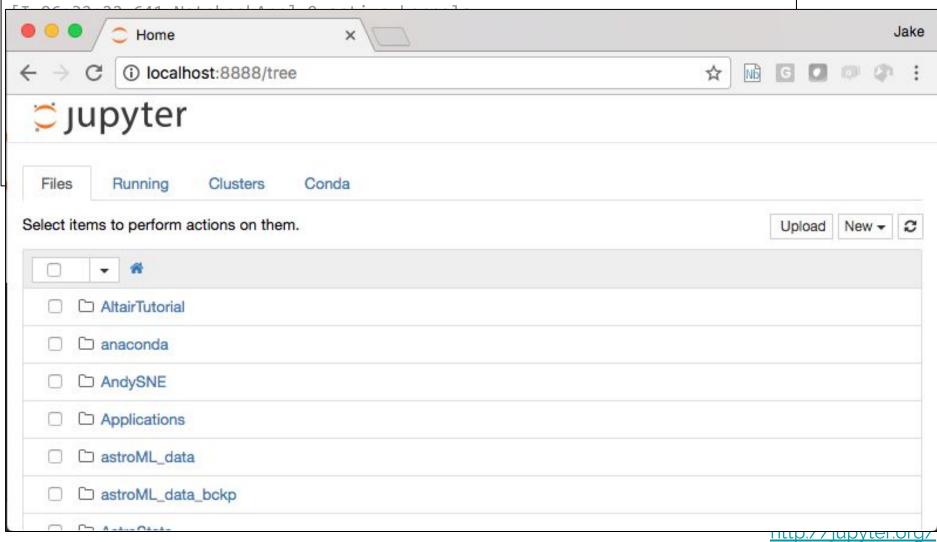
[I 06:32:22.641 NotebookApp] The IPython Notebook is running at:

http://localhost:8888/

[I 06:32:22.642 NotebookApp] Use Control-C to stop this server and shut down all kernels (twice to skip confirmation).

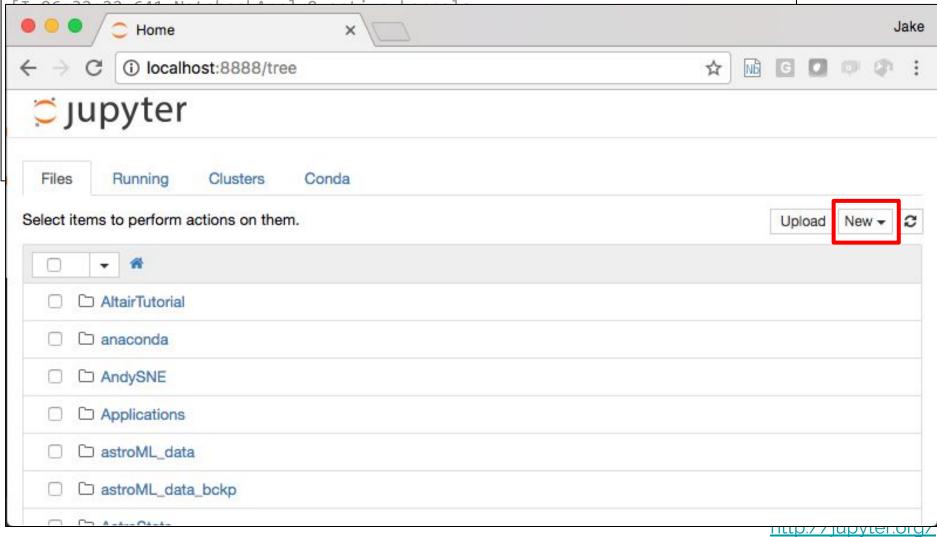


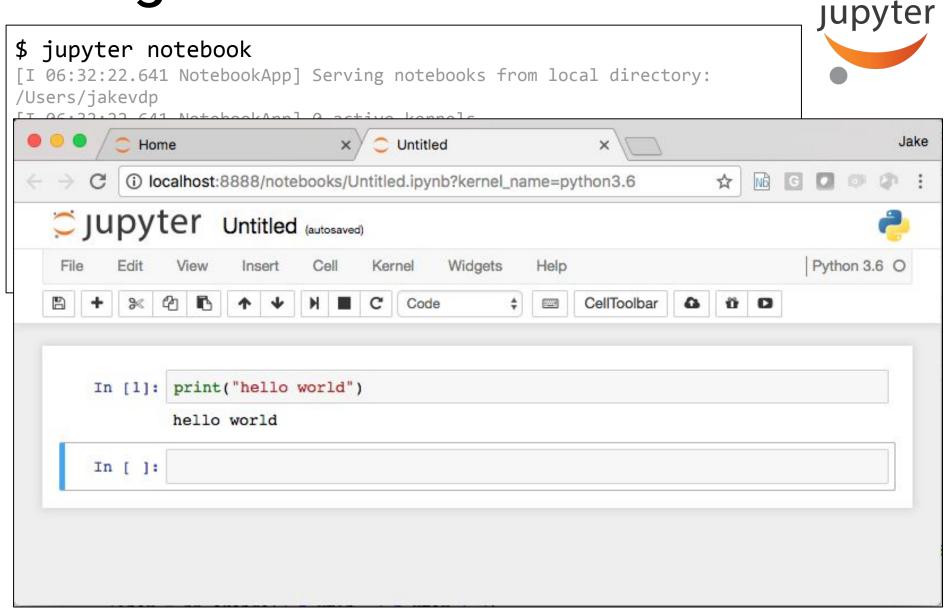
\$ jupyter notebook
[I 06:32:22.641 NotebookApp] Serving notebooks from local directory:
/Users/jakevdp

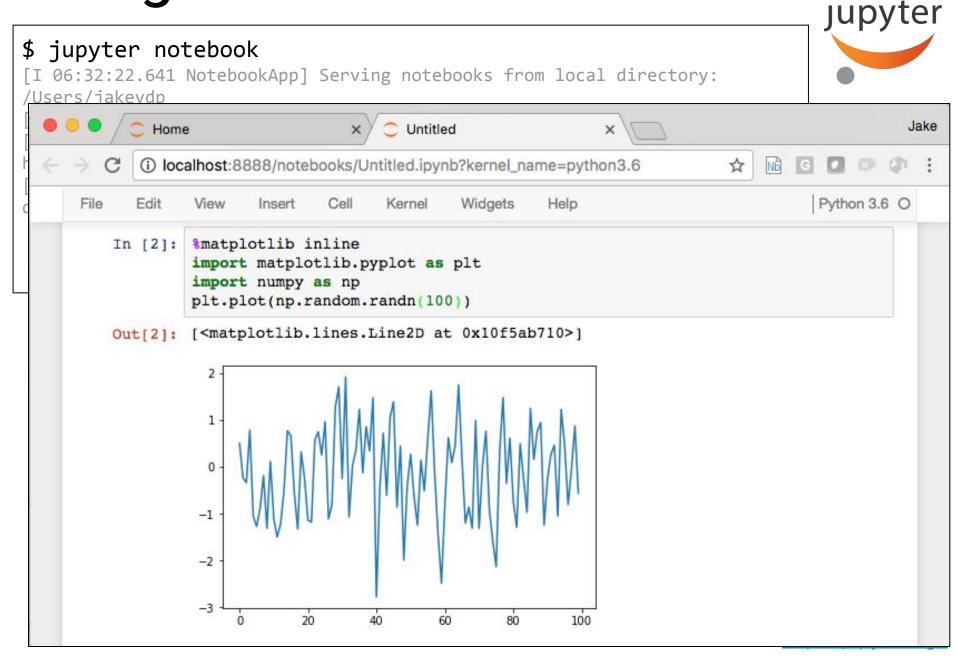




\$ jupyter notebook
[I 06:32:22.641 NotebookApp] Serving notebooks from local directory:
/Users/jakevdp







JupyterLab has recently been released: making the notebook one component of a full-featured IDE.





About

Welcome to the JupyterLab alpha preview

This demo gives an alpha-level preview of the JupyterLab environment. Here is a brief description of some of the things you'll find in this demo.

File Browser

Clicking the "Files" tab, located on the left, will toggle the file browser. Navigate into directories by double-clicking, and use the breadcrumbs at the top to navigate out. Create a new file/directory by clicking the plus icon at the top. Click the middle icon to upload files, and click the last icon to reload the file listing. Drag and drop files to move them to subdirectories. Click on a selected file to rename it. Sort the list by clicking on a column header. Open a file by double-clicking it or dragging it into the main area. Opening an image displays the image. Opening a code file opens a code editor. Opening a notebook opens a very preliminary proof-of-concept **non-executable** view of the notebook.

Command Palette

Clicking the "Commands" tab, located on the left, will toggle the command palette. Execute a command by clicking, or navigating with your arrow keys and pressing Enter. Filter commands by typing in the text box at the top of the palette. The palette is organized into categories, and you can filter on a single category by clicking on the category header or by typing the header surrounded by colons in the search input (e.g., :file:).

You can try these things out from the command palette:

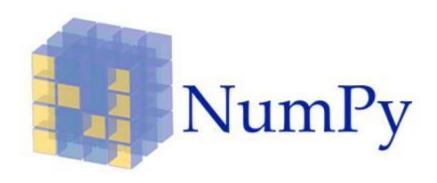
- · Open a new terminal (requires OS X or Linux)
- · Open a new file
- Save a file
- Open up a help panel on the right

Main area

The main area is divided into panels of tabs. Drag a tab around the area to split the main area in different ways. Drag a tab to the center of a panel to move a tab without splitting the panel (in this case, the whole panel will highlight, instead of just a portion). Resize panels by dragging their borders (be aware that panels and sidebars also have a minimum width). A file that contains changes to be saved has a star for a close icon.

Notebook

Opening a notebook will open a minimally featured notebook. Code execution, Markdown rendering, and basic cell toolbar actions are supported. Future versions will add more features from the existing Jupyter notebook.



\$ conda install numpy



NumPy provides the **ndarray** object which is useful for storing and manipulating numerical data arrays.

```
import numpy as np
x = np.arange(10)
print(x)
[0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9]
```

Arithmetic and other operations are performed element-wise on these arrays:

```
print(x * 2 + 1)
[ 1  3  5  7  9 11 13 15 17 19]
```



Also provides essential tools like pseudo-random numbers, linear algebra, Fast Fourier Transforms, etc.

```
M = np.random.rand(5, 10) # 5x10 random matrix
u, s, v = np.linalg.svd(M)
print(s)
 4.22083 1.091050 0.892570 0.55553
                                         0.392541]
x = np.random.randn(100) # 100 std normal values
X = np.fft.fft(x)
print(X[:4])
                         # first four entries
[-7.932434 + 0.j]
                       -16.683935 -3.997685j
   3.229016+16.658718j 2.366788-11.863747j]
```



Key to using NumPy (and general numerical code in Python) is **vectorization**:

```
x = np.random.rand(10000000)
```

If you write Python like C, you'll have a bad time:

```
%%timeit
y = np.empty(x.shape)
for i in range(len(x)):
   y[i] = 2 * x[i] + 1
```

1 loop, best of 3: 6.4 s per loop



Key to using NumPy (and general numerical code in Python) is **vectorization**:

```
x = np.random.rand(10000000)
```

Use vectorization for readability and speed

```
%%timeit
y = 2 * x + 1
```

10 loops, best of 3: 58.6 ms per loop ~ 100x speedup!



Key to using NumPy (and general numerical code in Python) is **vectorization**:

```
x = np.random.rand(10000000)
```

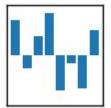
Use vectorization for readability and speed

```
%%timeit
y = 2 * x + 1
```

```
10 loops, best of 3: 58.6 ms per loop ~ 100x speedup!
```

For a more complete intro to vectorization in NumPy, see Losing Your Loops: Fast Numerical Computation in Python (my talk at PyCon 2015)

$$pandas y_{it} = \beta' x_{it} + \mu_i + \epsilon_{it}$$







\$ conda install pandas









Pandas provides a **DataFrame** object which is like a NumPy array, but has labeled rows and columns:

```
1 4
```

1 2 5

2 3 6









Like NumPy, arithmetic is element-wise, but you can access and augment the data using column name:

```
df['x+2y'] = df['x'] + 2 * df['y']
print(df)
```

```
x y x+2y
0 1 4 9
1 2 5 12
2 3 6 15
```









Pandas excels in reading data from disk in a variety of formats. Start here to read virtually any data format!

```
# contents of data.csv
name, id
peter, 321
paul, 605
mary, 444
```

```
df = pd.read_csv('data.csv')
print(df)
```

```
name id
0 peter 321
1 paul 605
2 mary 444
```









Pandas also provides fast SQL-like grouping & aggregation:

```
df = pd.DataFrame({'id': ['A', 'B', 'A', 'B'],
                    'val': [1, 2, 3, 4]})
print(df)
  id
      val
0
  Α
     3
2
3
   В
        4
grouped = df.groupby('id').sum()
print(grouped)
   val
id
Α
       4
В
       6
```

Visualization:



\$ conda install matplotlib

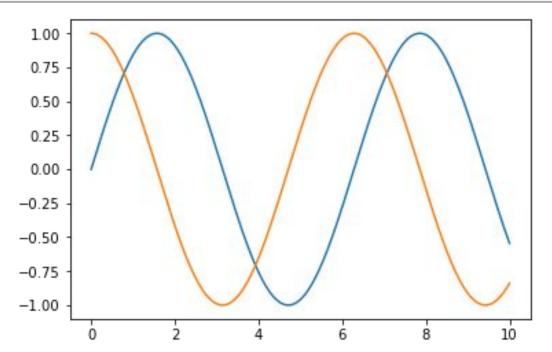
Visualization:



Matplotlib was developed as a Pythonic replacement for MatLab; thus MatLab users should find it quite familiar:

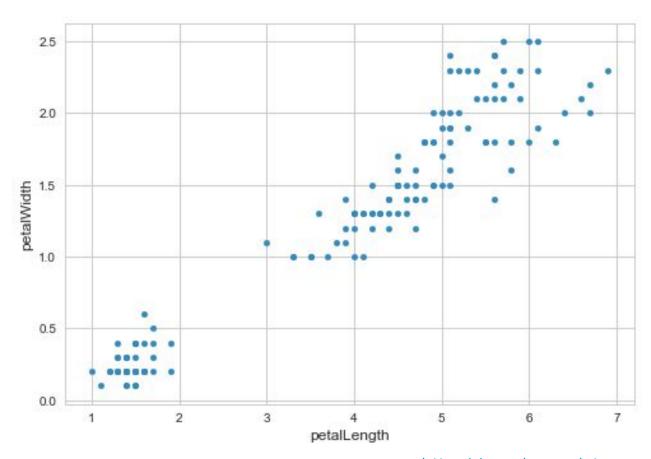
```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

x = np.linspace(0, 10, 1000)
plt.plot(x, np.sin(x))
plt.plot(x, np.cos(x))
```



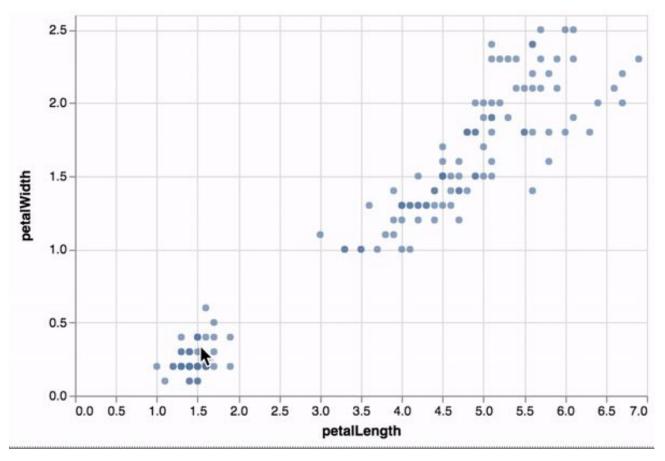
Pandas offers a simplified Matplotlib Interface:

```
data = pd.read_csv('iris.csv')
data.plot.scatter('petalLength', 'petalWidth')
```



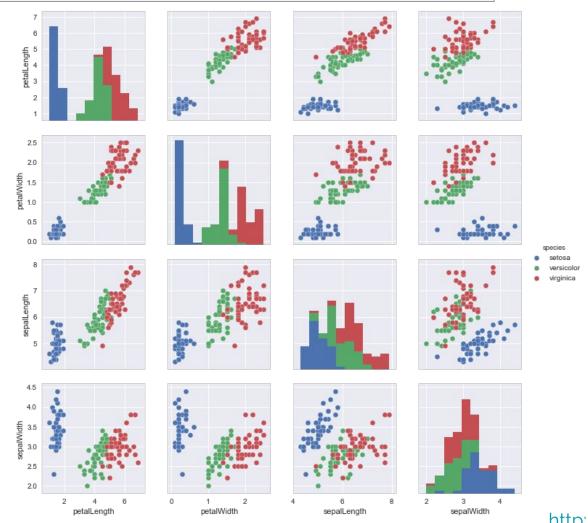
PdVega gives a similar interface to Vega-Lite:

```
import pdvega # import makes vgplot attribute available
data.vgplot.scatter('petalLength', 'petalWidth')
```



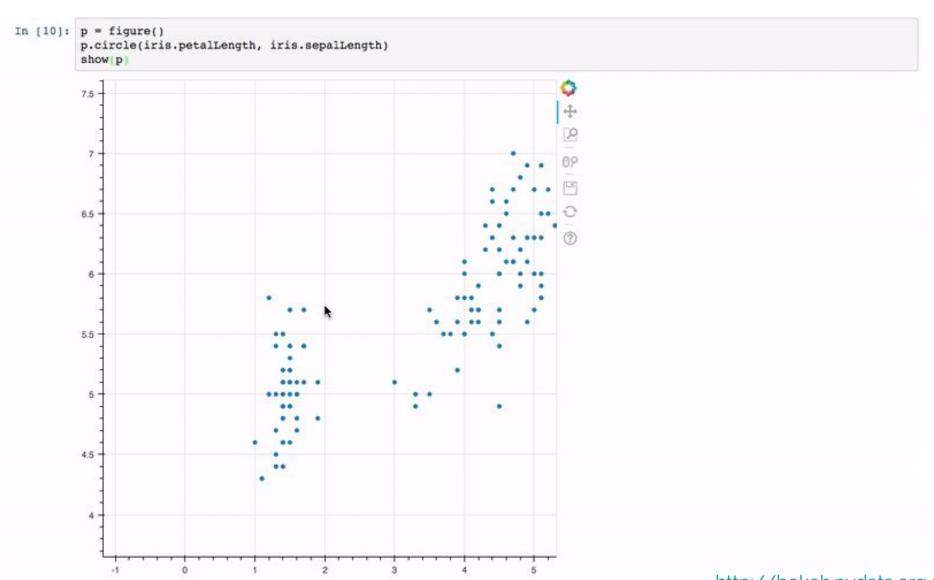
Seaborn is a package for statistical data visualization

seaborn.pairplot(data, hue='species')



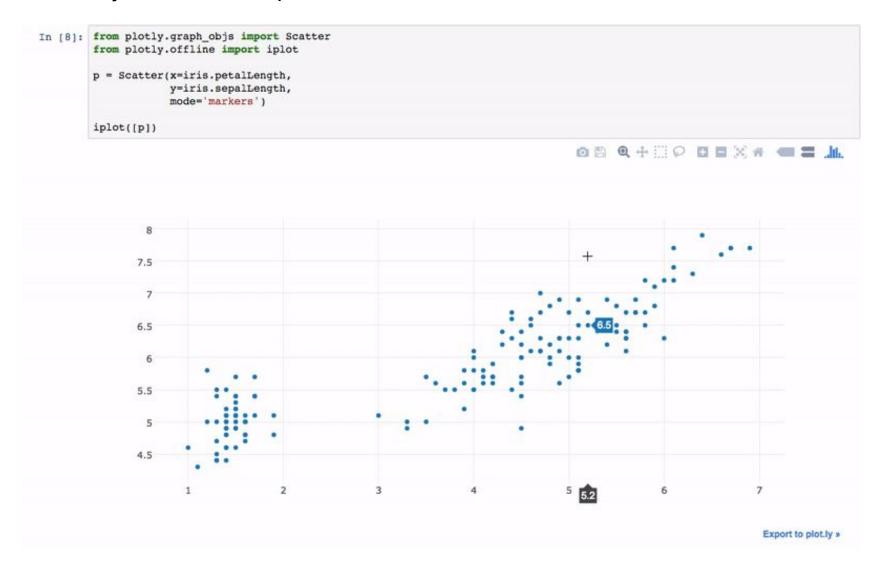


Bokeh: interactive visualization in the browser.





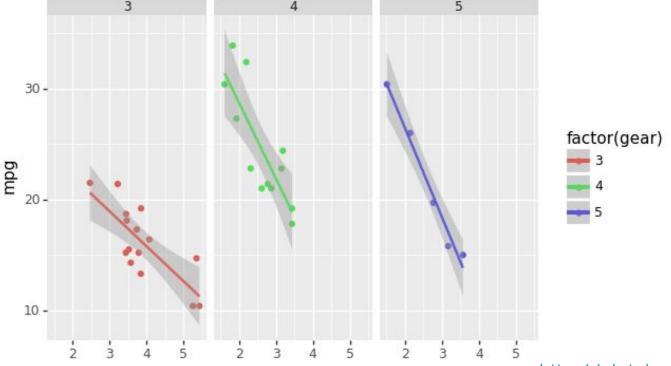
Plotly: "modern platform for data science"



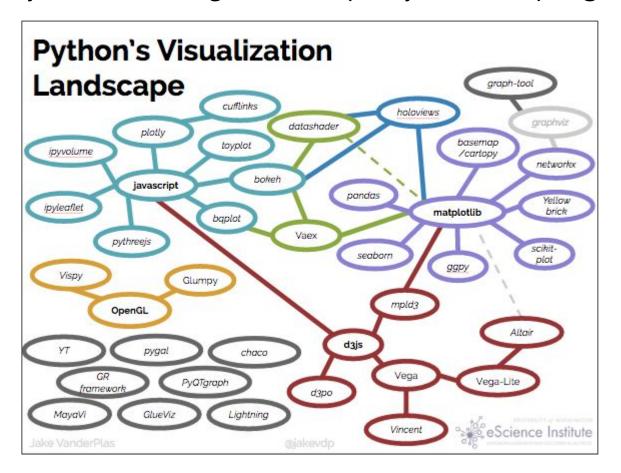


plotnine: grammar of graphics in Python

```
(ggplot(mtcars, aes('wt', 'mpg', color='factor(gear)'))
+ geom_point())
+ stat_smooth(method='lm')
+ facet_wrap('~gear'))
```



Viz in Python is a *huge* and rapidly-developing space:



See my PyCon 2017 talk, Python's Visualization Landscape

Numerical Algorithms:



\$ conda install scipy

Numerical Algorithms:



SciPy contains almost too many to demonstrate: e.g.

scipy.sparse

scipy.interpolate

scipy.integrate

scipy.spatial

scipy.stats

scipy.optimize

scipy.linalg

scipy.special

scipy.fftpack

sparse matrix operations

interpolation routines

numerical integration

spatial metrics & distances

statistical functions

minimization & optimization

linear algebra

special mathematical functions

Fourier & related transforms

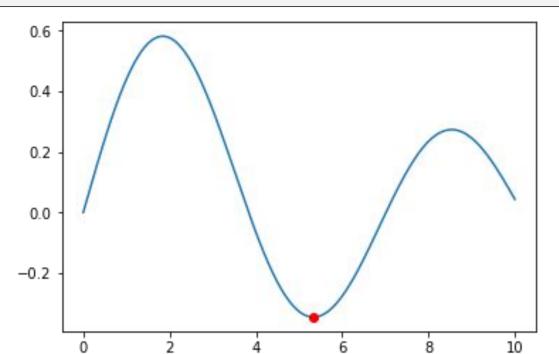
Most functionality comes from wrapping Netlib & related Fortran libraries, meaning it is *blazing* fast.

Numerical Algorithms:



```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
from scipy import special, optimize

x = np.linspace(0, 10, 1000)
opt = optimize.minimize(special.j1, x0=3)
plt.plot(x, special.j1(x))
plt.plot(opt.x, special.j1(opt.x), marker='o', color='red')
```



Machine Learning:



\$ conda install scikit-learn

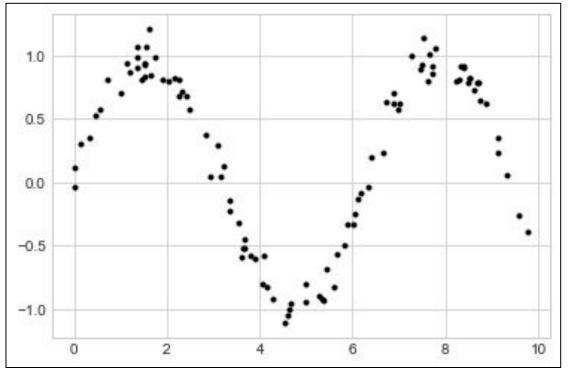
Scikit-learn features a well-defined, extensible API for the most popular machine learning algorithms:

Machine Learning with scikit-learn

learn

Make some noisy 1D data for which we can fit a model:

```
x = 10 * np.random.rand(100)
y = np.sin(x) + 0.1 * np.random.randn(100)
plt.plot(x, y, '.k')
```



Machine Learning with scikit-learn



Fit a random forest regression:

```
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestRegressor
model = RandomForestRegressor()
model.fit(x[:, np.newaxis], y)
xfit = np.linspace(-1, 11, 1000)
yfit = model.predict(xfit[:, np.newaxis])
plt.plot(x, y, '.k')
                         1.0
plt.plot(xfit, yfit)
                         0.5
                         0.0
                         -0.5
                         -1.0
```

Machine Learning with scikit-learn



Fit a support vector regression:

```
from sklearn.svm import SVR
model = SVR()
model.fit(x[:, np.newaxis], y)
xfit = np.linspace(-1, 11, 1000)
yfit = model.predict(xfit[:, np.newaxis])
plt.plot(x, y, '.k')
                          1.0
plt.plot(xfit, yfit)
                          0.5
                          0.0
                         -0.5
                         -1.0
                                                                10
```

Machine Learning with scikit-learn



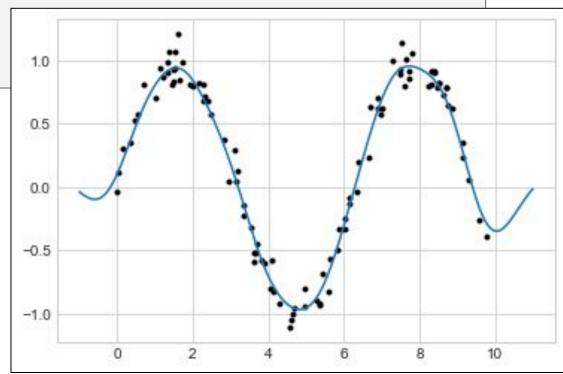
Fit a support vector regression:

```
from sklearn.svm import SVR
model = SVR()

model.fit(x[:, np.newaxis], y)
xfit = np.linspace(-1, 11, 1000)
yfit = model.predict(xfit[:, np.newaxis])
```

plt.plot(x, y, '.k')
plt.plot(xfit, yfit)

Scikit-learn's strength: provides a uniform API for the most common machine learning methods.





\$ conda install dask

Dask is a lightweight tool for creating task graphs that can be executed on a variety of backends.



Typical data manipulation with NumPy:

```
import numpy as np
a = np.random.randn(1000)
b = a * 4
b_min = b.min()
print(b_min)
```

-13.2982888603



Same operation with dask

```
import dask.array as da
a2 = da.from_array(a, chunks=200)
b2 = a2 * 4
b2_min = b2.min()
print(b2_min)

dask.array<amin-aggregate, shape=(),</pre>
```

dtype=float64, chunksize=()>

Same ope

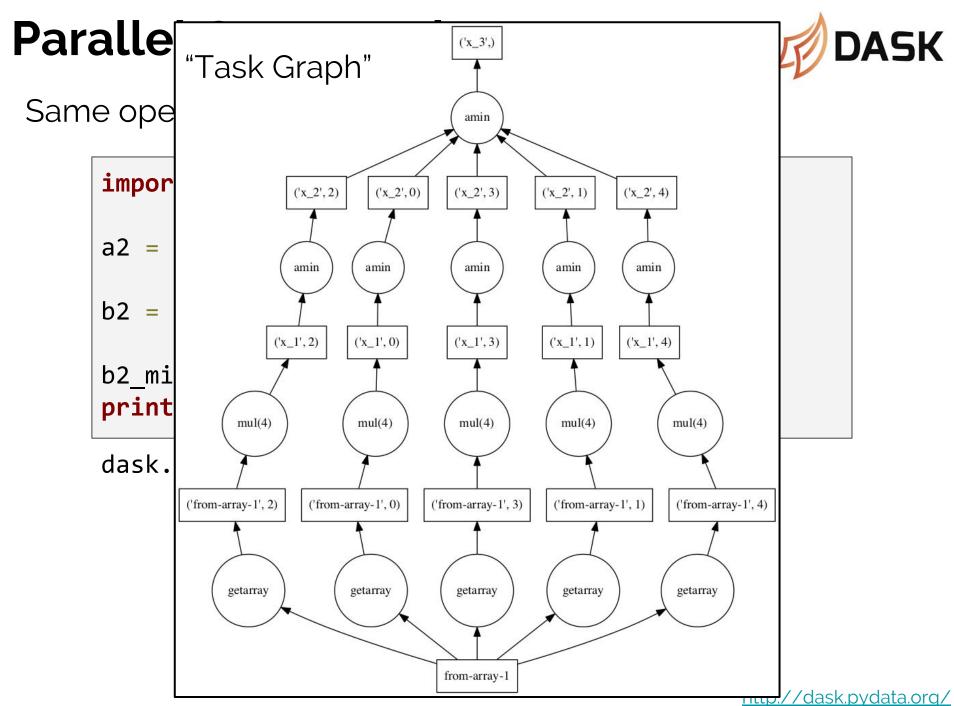
impor

a2

b2

b2_mi print

dask.



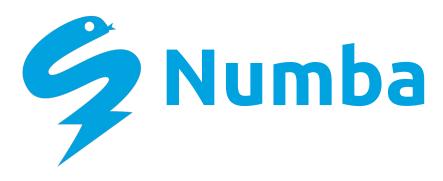


Same operation with dask

-13,298288860312757

```
import dask.array as da
a2 = da.from_array(a, chunks=200)
b2 = a2 * 4
b2 min = b2.min()
print(b2 min)
dask.array<amin-aggregate, shape=(),</pre>
           dtype=float64, chunksize=()>
b2_min.compute()
```

http://dask.pydata.org/



\$ conda install numba

Numba is a bytecode compiler that can convert Python code to fast LLVM code targeting a CPU or GPU.



Simple iterative functions tend to be slow in Python:

```
def fib(n):
    a, b = 0, 1
    for i in range(n):
        a, b = b, a + b
    return a

%timeit fib(10000) # ipython "timeit magic"
```

100 loops, best of 3: 2.73 ms per loop



With a quick decorator, code can be ~1000x as fast!

```
import numba
@numba.jit
def fib(n):
    a, b = 0, 1
    for i in range(n):
        a, b = b, a + b
    return a

%timeit fib(10000) # ipython "timeit magic"
```

100000 loops, best of 3: 6.06 μs per loop

~ 500x speedup!



With a quick decorator, code can be ~1000x as fast!

```
import numba
@numba.jit
def fib(n):
    a, b = 0, 1
    for i in range(n):
        a, b = b, a + b
    return a
%timeit fib(10000) # ipython "timeit magic"
```

100000 loops, best of 3: 6.06 μs per loop

Numba achieves this by just-in-time (JIT) ~ 500x speedup! compilation of the Python function to LLVM byte-code.



\$ conda install cython

Cython is a superset of the Python language that can be compiled to fast C code.



Again, returning to our fib function:

```
# python code

def fib(n):
    a, b = 0, 1
    for i in range(n):
        a, b = b, a + b
    return a
```

```
%timeit fib(10000)
```

100 loops, best of 3: 2.73 ms per loop



Cython compiles the code to C, giving marginal speedups without even changing the code:

```
%%cython

def fib(n):
    a, b = 0, 1
    for i in range(n):
        a, b = b, a + b
    return a
```

```
%timeit fib(10000)
```

```
100 loops, best of 3: 2.42 ms per loop
```

~ 10% speedup!



Using cython's syntactic sugar to specify types for the compiler leads to much better performance:

```
%%cython

def fib(int n):
    cdef int a = 0, b = 1
    for i in range(n):
        a, b = b, a + b
    return a
```

```
%timeit fib(10000)
```

```
100000 loops, best of 3: 5.93 μs per loop
```

~ 500x speedup!

Powered by Cython:



The PyData stack is largely powered by Cython:



... and many more.

Python is not a data science language.

J

And this may be its greatest strength.

Thank You!



Email: jakevdp@uw.edu



Twitter: @jakevdp



Github: jakevdp



Web: http://vanderplas.com/



Blog: http://jakevdp.github.io/