

Running python

If you already have `python3` on your machine, you can directly move on to the Questions sections.

Check if you already have python

- **Linux (Ubuntu, Debian, ...)** : Open a terminal, input `python3`
- **Windows** : Open the **Start** menu, write `python`
- **MacOS** : Open a terminal, input `python3`

Installing Python

The first step into programming is to get Python installed on your Virtual Machine (VM). You will need two things:

- Python itself
- An IDE (Interactive Development Environment)

Ubuntu (Linux)

python3

By default, Python is already installed. In this tutorial however, we will use Python3 whenever possible. You can install it from a terminal window (`Ctrl + Alt + T`) with:

```
sudo apt-get install python3
```

If you are using our VM, you already have python, this is in case you ever need to install it.

To check whether everything worked, type:

```
python3
```

This will take you to the interactive console.

Code editor

If you open a terminal and type `gedit` . It will open the text editor **gedit**.

As a text editor, it is fine to start with **gedit**. Please make sure to change tabs to spaces via *Edit -> Preferences -> Editor -> tick 'Insert spaces instead of tabs'* ([Want to learn more about this?](#)).

Later, we will use a text editor with more features that will be helpful for python code writing.

Question

Which python version are you running?

Check your python version by typing (in the terminal):

```
python3 --version
```

You should see something like `Python 3.6.7`.

It is important that your python version is superior to 3.5 at least.

On Windows

A convenient way to install Python, an editor and many additional packages in one go is [Anaconda](#), a Python distribution with many pre-installed packages for scientific applications.

