Big Data and Automated Content Analysis

Week 1 – Wednesday »First steps in the VM«

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Today

1 The Linux command line

2 Writing and running Python code

3 Next meetings

When point-and-click doesn't help you further:

The Linux command line

The tools

General idea

Whereever possbile, we use tools that are

- platform-independent
- free (as in beer and as in speech)
- open source

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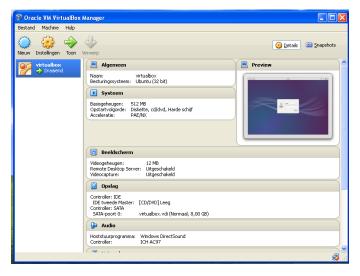
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To make things easier, we work with a virtual machine in which everyone runs *the same* Linux version.

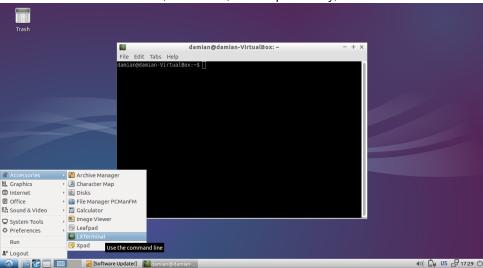


KEEP **CALM** AND START YOUR ENGINES!

Let's switch to Linux!



a.k.a. the terminal, shell or, more specifically, bash



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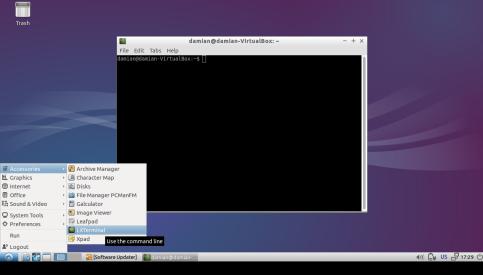
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 - You simply cannot open them in many GUI programs
 - ... or it takes ages
 - The command line allows you to do such things without problems
- It is reproducible (ever tried to explain to your parents on the phone where they have to click?)

There are endless tutorials, cheat sheets, videos ... online. Google it!



Exercise

Take the book.

Follow the instructions in Chapter 2.

Observe how you could do the same thing with the graphical interface.

A language, not a program:

Python

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What?

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- Huge advantage: flexibility, portability
- One of the languages for data analysis. (The other one is R.)



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Which version?

We use Python 3.

http://www.google.com or http://www.stackexchange.com still offer a lot of Python2-code, but that can easily be adapted. Most notable difference: In Python 2, you write print "Hi", this has changed to print ("Hi")

If it's not a program, how do you work with it?

Interactive mode

- Just type ipython3 (if not available: python3)on the command line, and you can start entering Python commands

 (You can leave again by entering quit())
- Great for quick try-outs, but you cannot even save your code



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An editor of your choice

- Write your program in any text editor, save it as myprog.py
- and run it from the command line with ./myprog.py or python3 myprog.py

If it's not a program, how do you start it?

An IDE (Integrated Development Environment)

- Provides an interface
- Both quick interactive try-outs and writing larger programs
- We use spyder, which looks a bit like RStudio (and to some extent like Stata)

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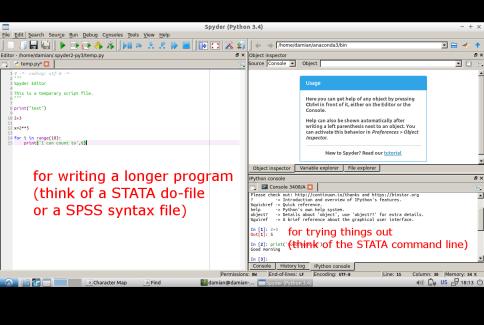
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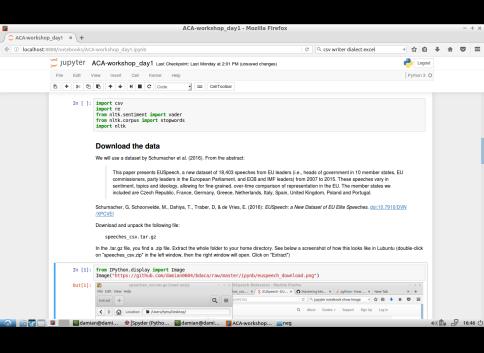
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Jupyter Notebook

- Runs in your browser
- Stores results and text along with code
- Great for interactive playing with data and for sharing results







Let's start up a Python environment and write a Hello-world-program!

Start playing!

1. Run a program that greets you.

The code for this is

```
print("Hello world")
```

After that, do some calculations. You can do that in a similar way:

- 1 a=2
- print(a*3)

Just play around.

Repeat your exercise in different environments (command line shell, spyder, jupyter notebook).

Start playing!

2. Write a program that converts centimeters to inches

Take a variable with the number of centimeters as input and print a nicely formatted answer that gives the value in inches. 1 inch = 2.54 cm.

Printing several things in a row can be done like this:

print("The answer is",42)

Additional ressources

Codecademy course on Python https://www.codecademy.com/learn/python

Next meetings

Week 2: Getting started with Python

Monday, 12-2

Lecture.

Chapter 4.

Wednesday, 14–2

Lab Session.

Exercise A1.