NLP For Economists

Python Overview

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Goals for this session

- Talk about what books to read, software to use etc.
- Talk about setting up Python

(This is a very short video. Python fundamentals videos will follow this one!)

Python Textbooks

1. Recommended book: `https://www.py4e.com/html3/`

2. "How to think like a computer scientist: `http://openbookproject.net/thinkcs/python/english3e/`

3. "Learn Python the Hard way": `https://learnpythonthehardway.org/python3/`

- I used the first book for students with no background in programming, and it was good for us. So, that is my goto book to teach Python.

How to use Python on your machines

1. I suggested PyCharm in an earlier email.
2. You can use anything you want e.g., atom, spyder etc.
3. You can also use Jupyter notebook, Anaconda - whatever you already know.
4. I will mostly use Python in a virtual environment, with Pycharm, on Windows/Ubuntu (depending on where I record).

Don't copy paste the code (or run there itself if it is a notebook).
Try on your editor. Type there.

Python Console vs Python program

- ▶ Python console: interactive, instant result
- ▶ Python program: You should "run" or execute the program to see your results.
- ▶ Console: You write x=3, and write x in next line, 3 gets printed in the other line
- ▶ Program: You have to write print(x)
- ▶ Program: You can save it and reuse it again and again

I will use both in introductory part, and use python programs later. You can copy paste parts into Jupyter notebook and explore if you want.

ToDo for you before next meeting

- ▶ Install Python and PyCharm
- ▶ Start checking out a Python textbook you are comfortable with.
- ▶ Read "Text as Data" paper listed in the syllabus under the topic Intro.
- ▶ Start trying out exercises I mention in videos or what you find in your textbook, to practice Python