

PyCharm setup


This is a super-useful software that allows you to work on a local copy of your project and automatically deploy it to the workstations. To the best of our knowledge, it is the only IDE that supports **remote debugging** (the codes run on a remote server, but you can see the variables on your laptop). [Read the guide!](#)

To do so, you need a premium account by registering as academic [here](#).

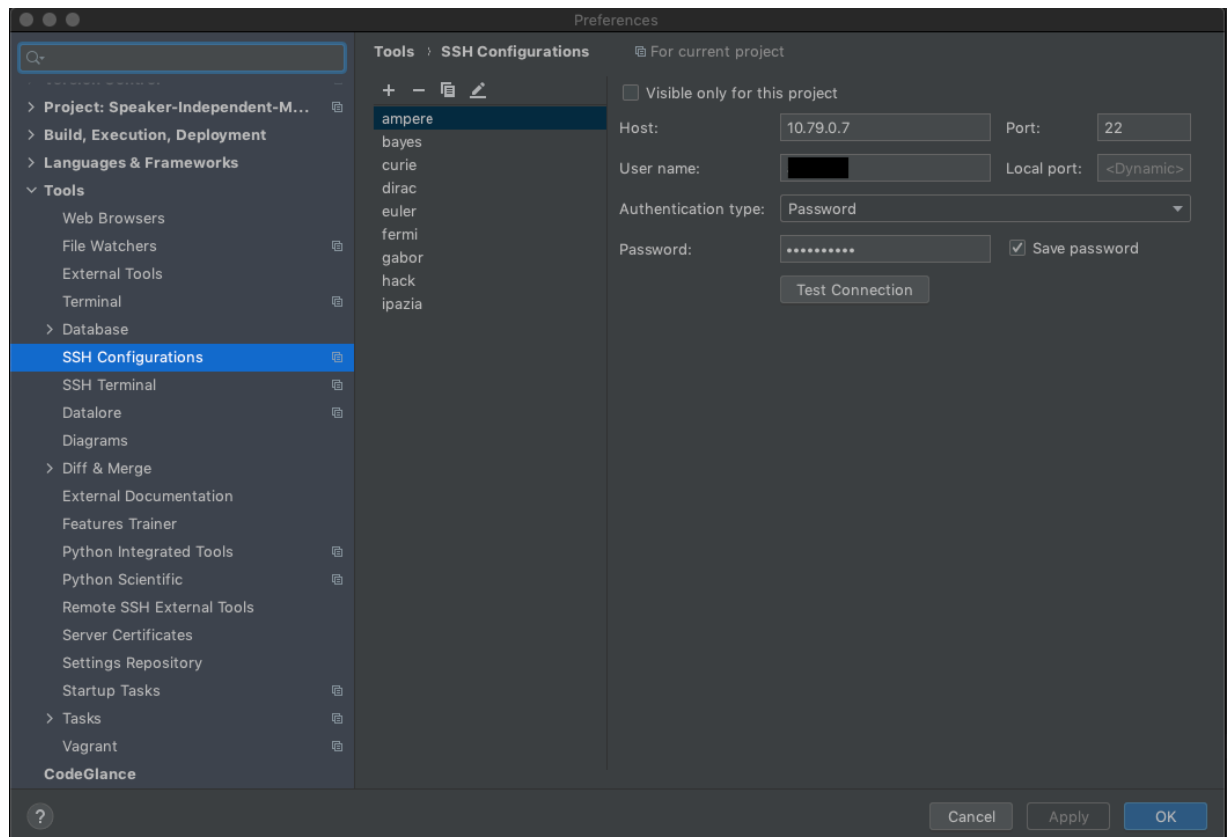
Its mechanism can be described as follows:

- PyCharm connects to the machines via SSH using your user account
- Projects are edited on your local machine, and automatically uploaded and synced with the remote host; this operation is called **deployment**
- A **remote Python interpreter** must be created through a SSH host, pointing to your *Conda* env.


Preliminary steps:

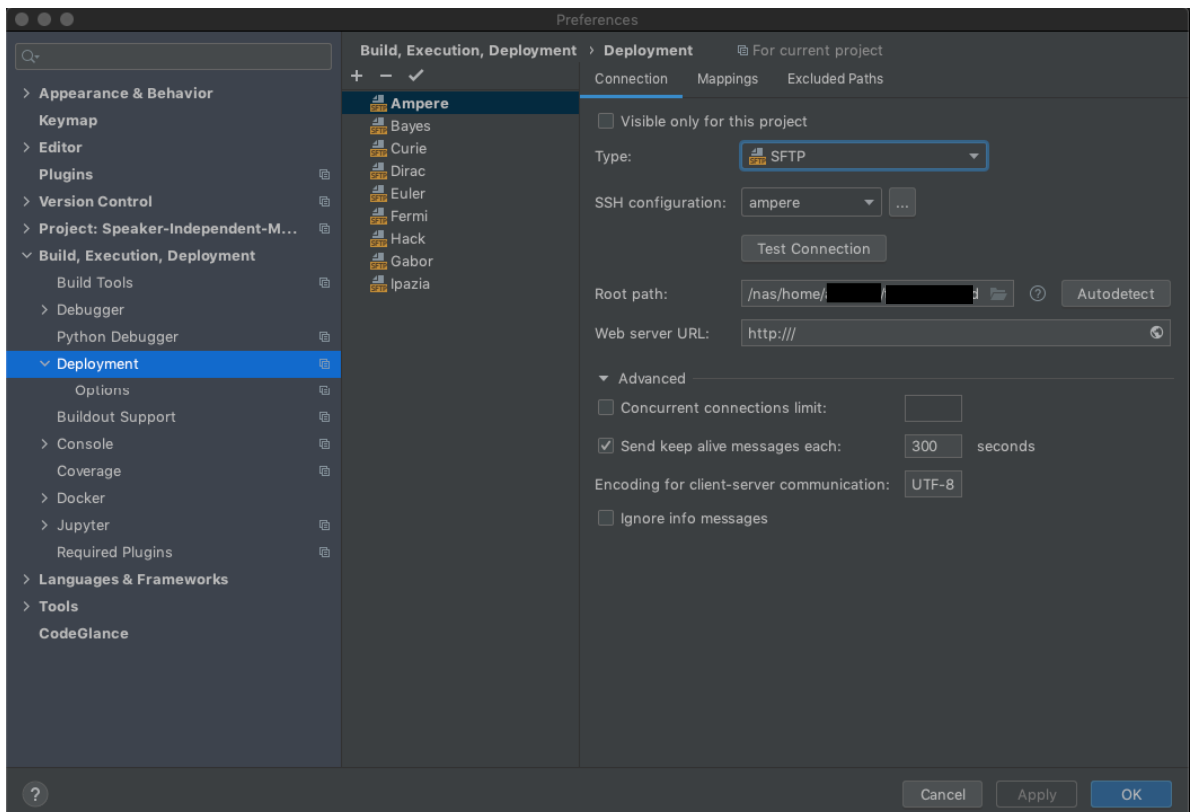
0. Install PyCharm on your PC and open it
1. Open the “*Preferences...*” panel, a window will show up
2. Go to “*SSH Configuration*” panel (either search for it, or find it under “*Tools*” group)
3. For each remote machine, create a connection configuration using the  button and the *SFTP* option:
 - a. **Host:** <IP_ADDRESS>
 - b. **Port:** 22
 - c. **User name:** <YOUR_USER_NAME>, i.e. *mrossi*
 - d. **Local port:** <Dynamic>
 - e. **Authentication type:** either the SSH key `id_rsa` you created following this guide (suggested), or the user password
 - f. Test the connection to check that everything is **OK!**
 - g. For your convenience, rename the configuration using the name of the machine (e.g., *ampere*) by clicking on the pencil button
 - h. Apply the changes.

At the end, you will have a similar window:

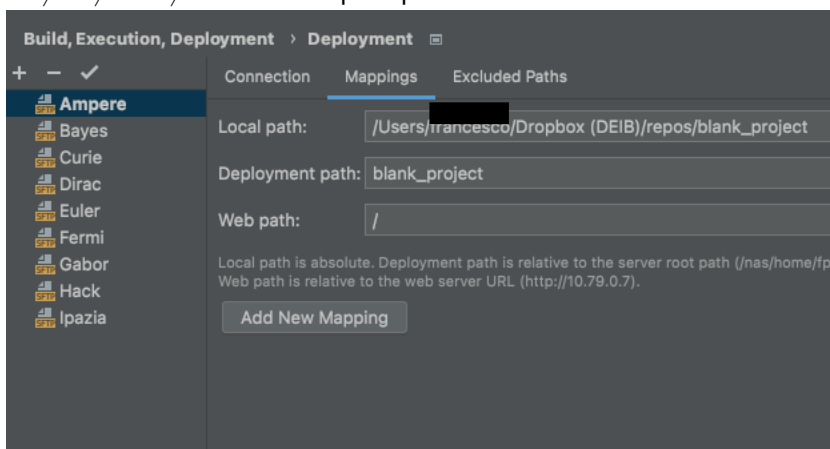


Deployments configuration:

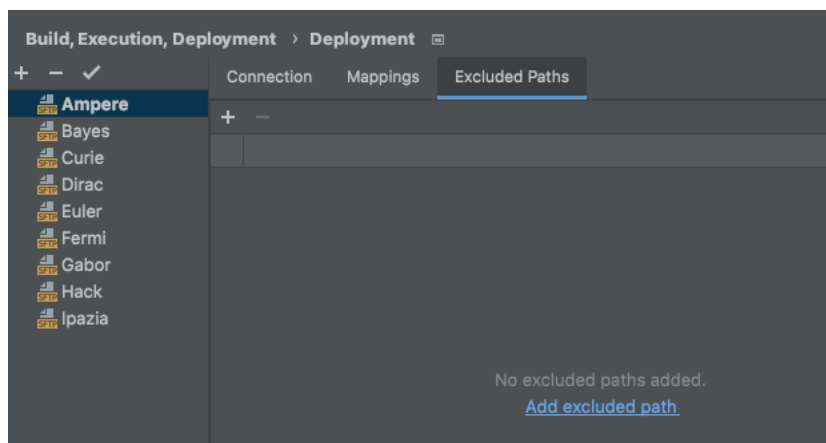
1. Open the “*Preferences...*” panel, go to “*Build, Execution, Deployment* → *Deployment*”
2. It is strongly suggested to create a default deployment configuration to *Ampere*, using the  button:
 - a. **Type:** SFTP
 - b. **Name:** for your convenience, use the machine name with the capital letter (e.g., *Ampere*)
 - c. Untick the “visible only for this project” box
 - d. **SSH configuration:** select the “ampere” ssh configuration from the drop-down menu
 - e. **Root path:** */nas/home/mrossi*
 - f. **Web server URL:** leave blank



3. Go to the “*Mappings*” tab above, then:
 - a. **Local Path:** the path pointing to your project folder
 - b. **Deployment path:** name of the remote project folder in the remote folder, without the `/nas/home/mrossi` folder path preamble.



4. If needed, you can exclude some local and remote folders (i.e. local papers folder and remote results folders) in the “*Excluded Paths*” tab

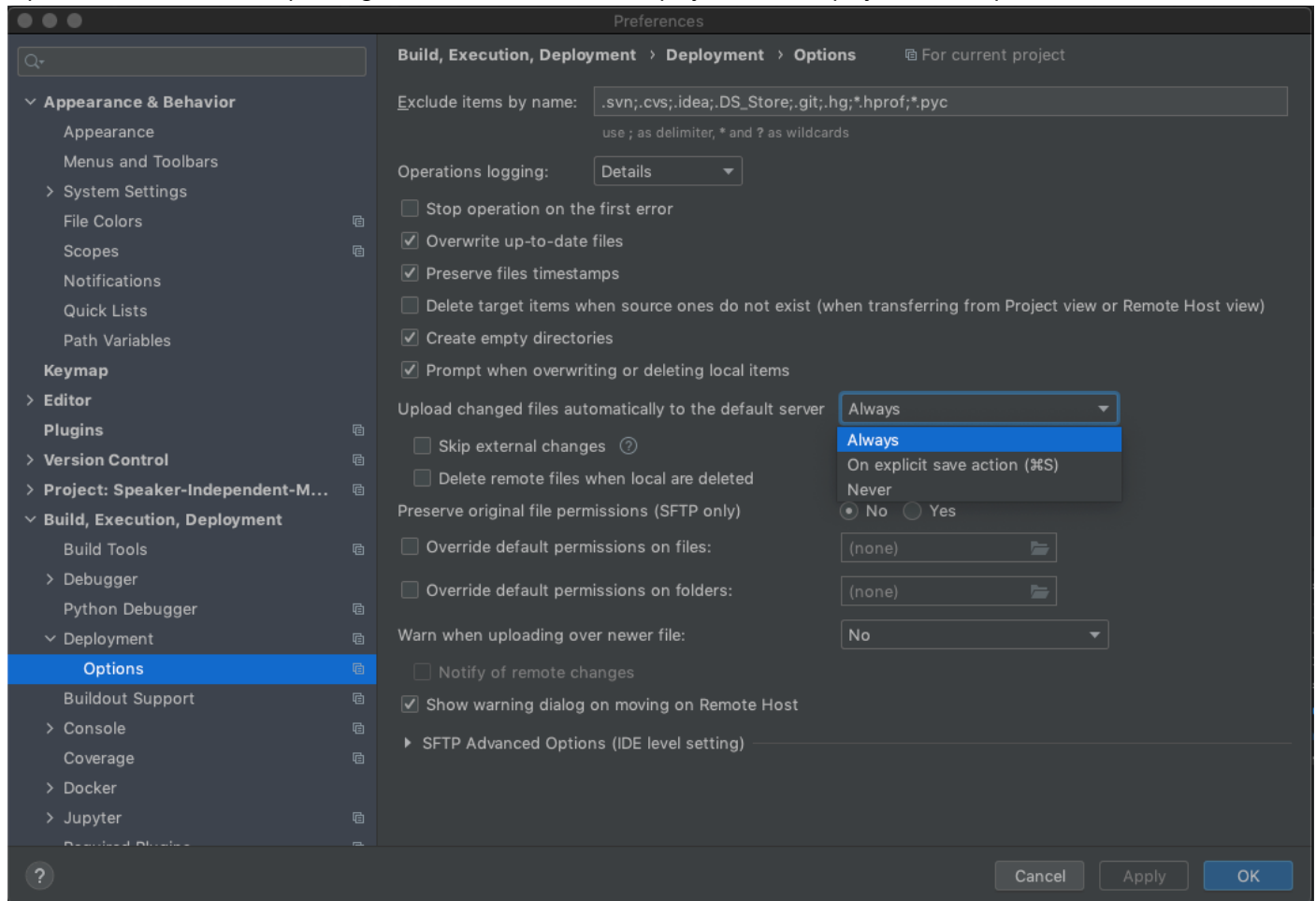


5. When done, click “*Apply*” in the bottom right of the window.

- It is strongly suggested to create a default deployment configuration to the *Ampere* workstation by clicking the ☒ button when selected. The workstation's name will become bold. This default deployment will be used for automatic uploading.

Additional configuration

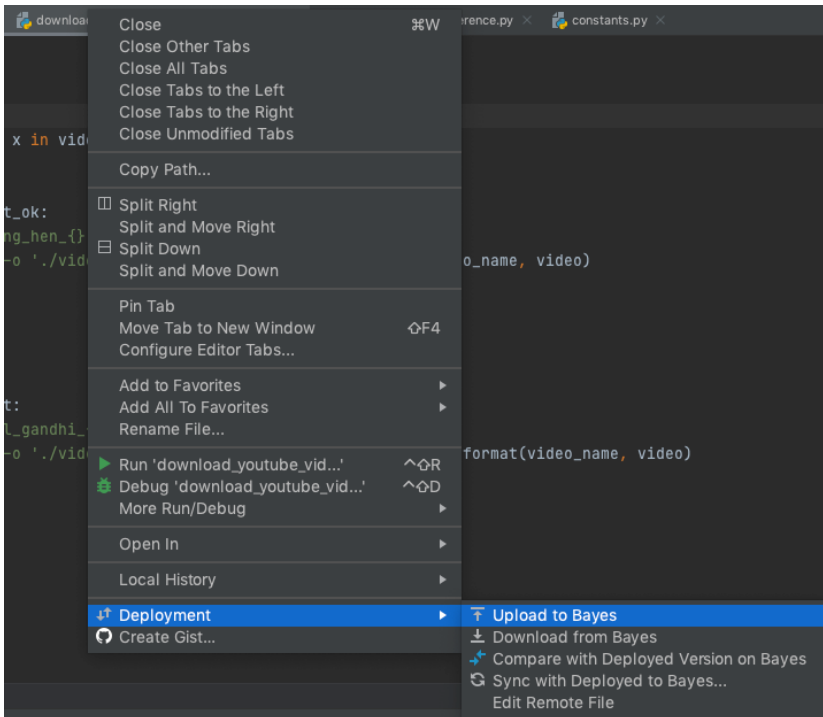
Open the “*Preferences...*” panel, go to “*Build, Execution, Deployment* → *Deployment* → *Options*”.



Here you can set some additional option regarding the automatic upload and some general upload options.

A you can notice, you can select different modalities for the automatic upload, also some options related to the remote backup behavior, like the overwrite operation on up-to-date files.


You can force the upload on the remote server by right click on the local Python file that you are editing. Under the “*Deployment*” submenu you can make some operation related to the remote workstation, as you can see below.

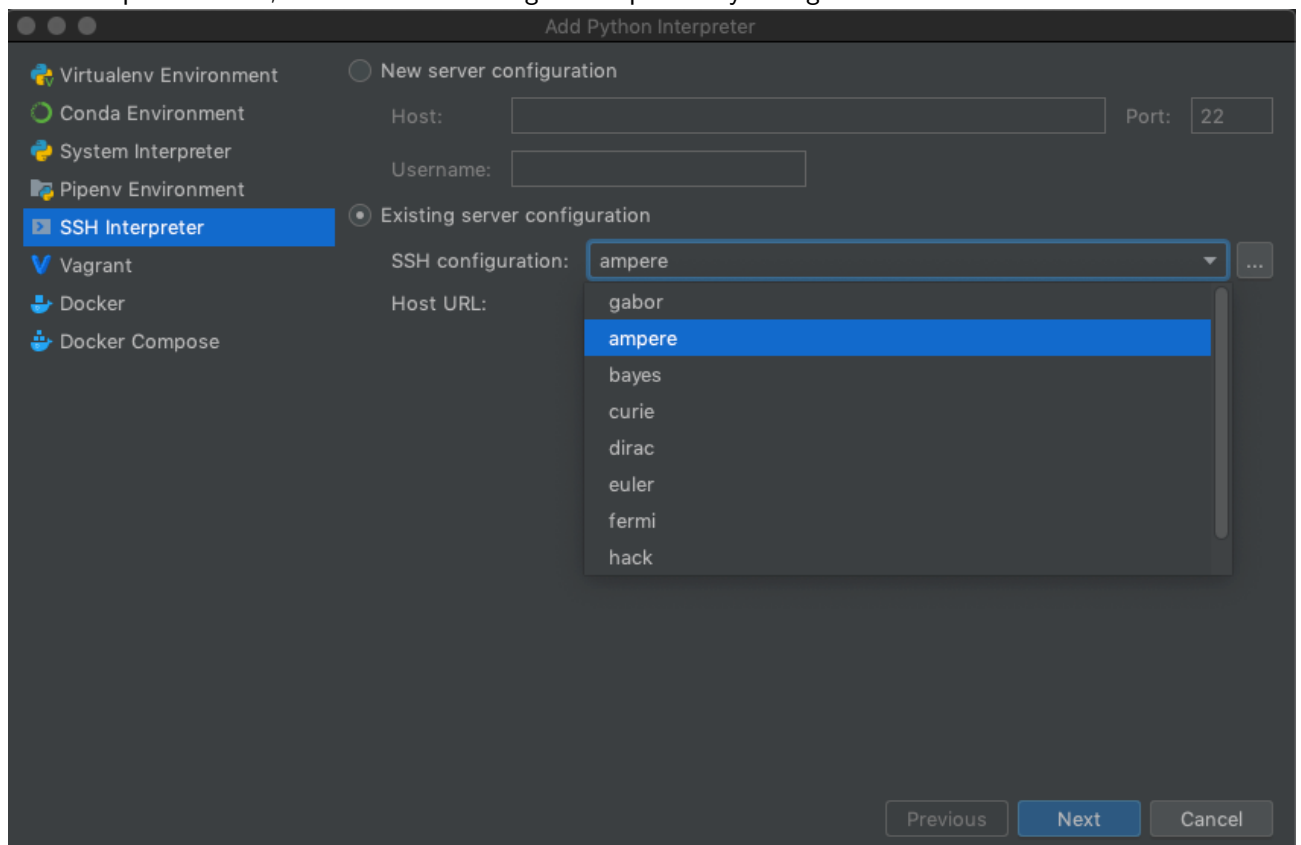



In this case, he selected remote workstation is the one set in point 6. of the “*Deployments configuration*” section above.

Remote Interpreter:

Once you have done with the deployment configuration, you must configure the workstation to work with your project, connecting the proper *Conda* environment.


1. Go to “*Preferences*” → “*Project:<YOUR_PROJECT>*” → “*Python Interpreter*”
2. Click the  icon and then “*Add...*”
3. Got to the *SSH Interpreter* submenu and tick the “*Existing Server Configuration*” option
4. In the dropdown menu, select the SSH Configuration previously configured and click “*Next*”



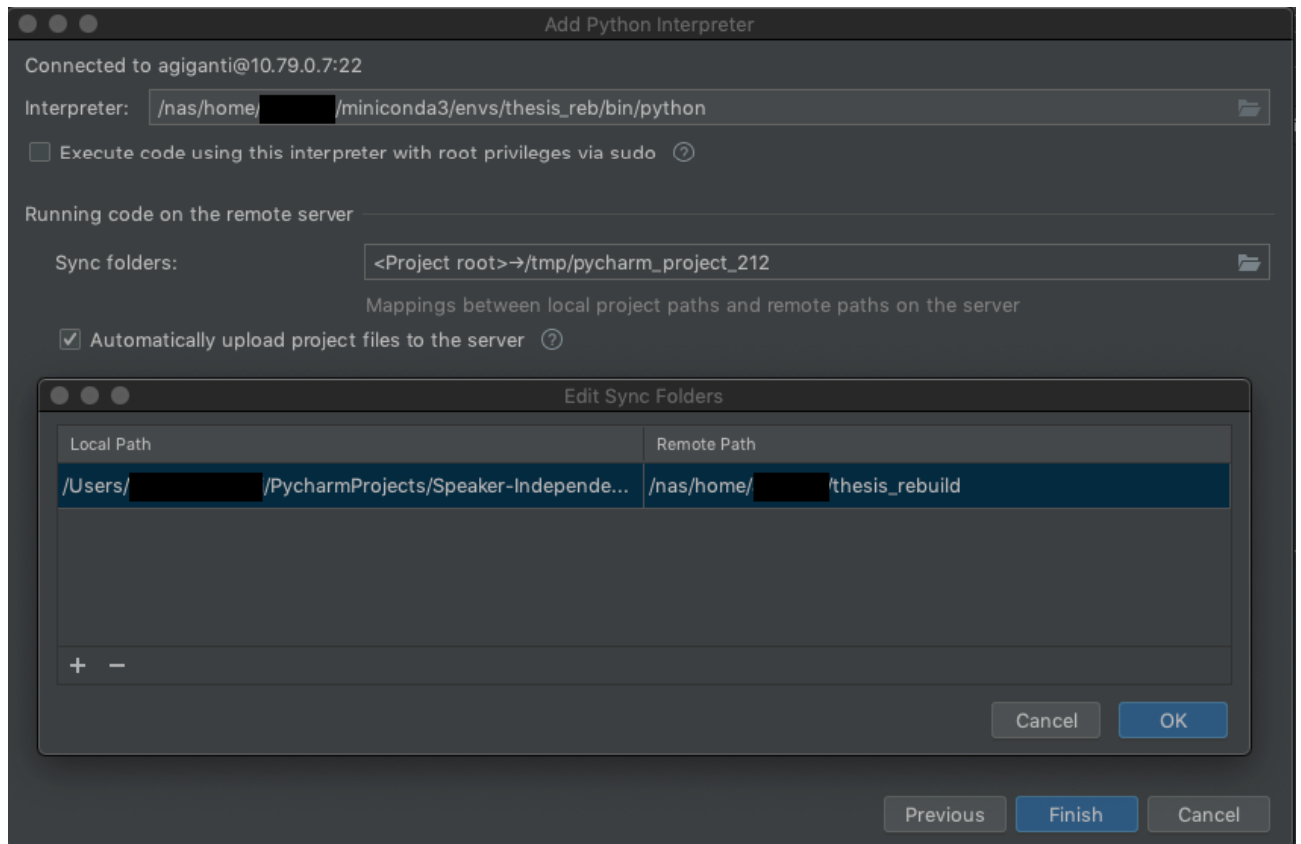
5. Now, by clicking the  icon on the “*Interpreter:*” field, you have to select the correct Python executable file, related to a **specific Conda** environment.

The final path for the python interpreter will be something like this:



`/nas/home/mrossi/miniconda3/envs/<ENV_NAME>/bin/python`

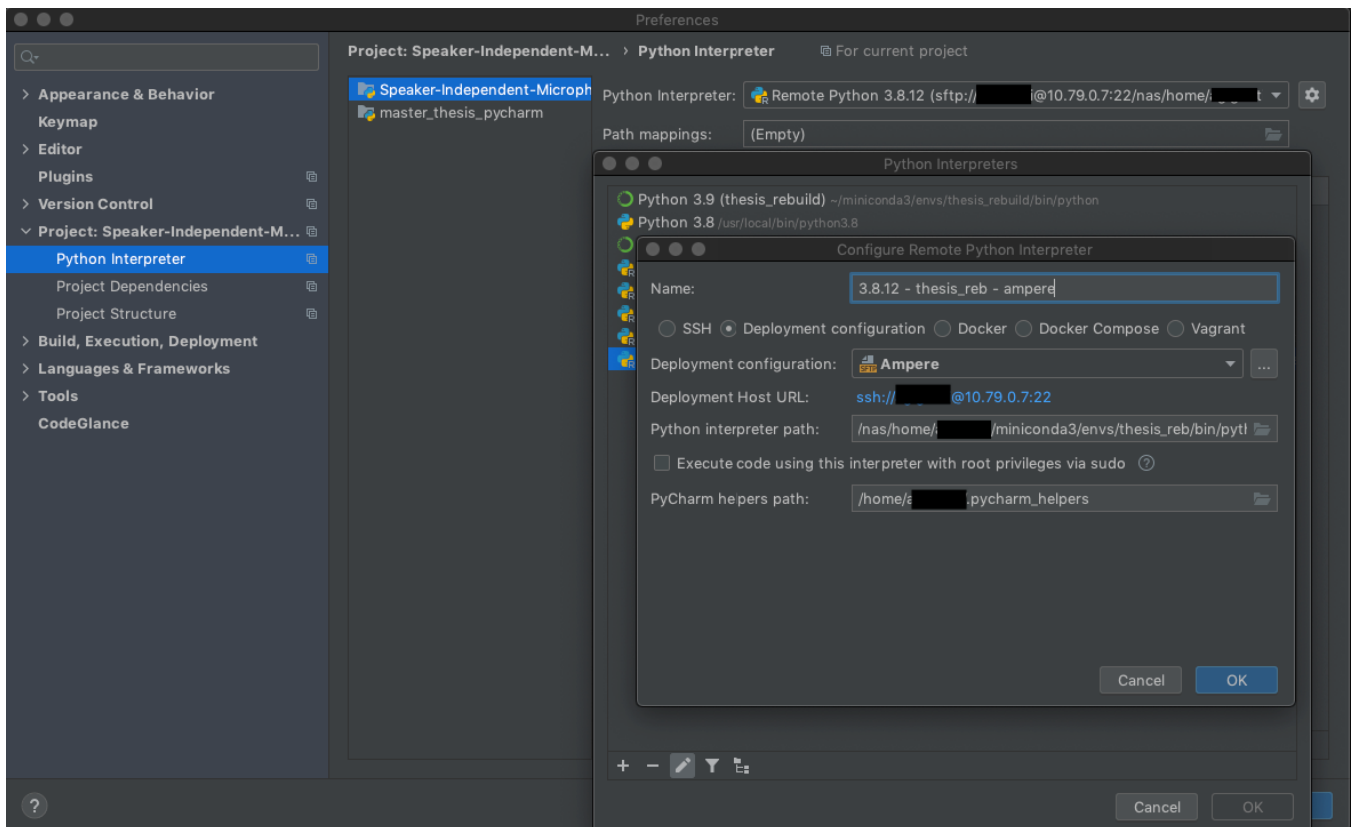
6. By clicking the  icon on the “Sync folders:” fields instead, you can map your remote project folder with your local one. The final path for the mapping will be something like this:

`/nas/home/mrossi/<PROJECT_NAME>`, but you can choose another folder in your personal folder, i.e. the standard `mrossi`.



If you want PyCharm uploads automatically your files on the remote folder after each local changes, you can tick the “*Automatically upload project files to the server*”. This operation overwrites the previous remote version of the files in that folder.

7. You can rename your environment. In “*Preferences → Project:<YOUR_PROJECT> → Python Interpreter*”, click the  icon and then “*Show all...*”. By clicking the  icon in the bottom part, you see a window like this. In this, you can change the name that will be displayed in the bottom part of the PyCharm IDE. This operation is useful when you have different interpreters related to different project/environments.



NB. Each configuration done in this section refers to a single Python **interpreter**. A single interpreter is related to a specific *Conda* environment. If you want to execute the code on all the remote machines, you should make **one configuration for each python executable** related to a specific environment and **for each workstation** that you plan to use.