Why Python?
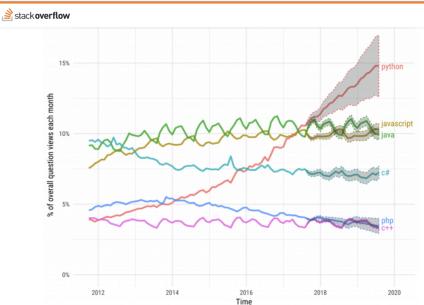- Python is free!
- Python is easy to use and has lots of online support

- Python has great packages for data analysis, scientific computing, visualization

Downside of Python?
- Interpreted language as opposed to compiled
  - Interpreted is easier for the programmer
  - Code has to be interpreted for machine in real-time so it's a bit slower

Getting Started
Download python by getting the Anaconda installer (http://anaconda.com/downloads)

- Anaconda allows us to easily add lots of the libraries like numpy, scipy, pandas etc that don't come standard with python
- Current (as of Jan 2022) version of python is 3.10
- You can see if your Windows computer is 32 or 64 bit by going to windows key -> system

- I suggest installing it into c:\apps\Anaconda3 folder instead of default because your user name might have a space in it and that can cause issues.
- We will do our coding in Spyder as opposed to Jupyter notebooks
  - This allows us to inspect variable values etc much more easily

Spyder
Under "Run" select "configuration per file" make sure you select for Working Directory Settings the button next to "The directory of the file being executed"
Under "Tools" select "Preferences" under Editor select "Show blank spaces"