

EMSE 6574 – Programming for Analytics: Python 101 – Python Environments

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Setting up Python

Python 2.7 vs 3

Python 2.7 is a legacy version of python

- On many machines this may be the default version installed (mac and Linux) due to compatibility

We will be using python 3.6 for this course for the most recent versions of packages

Python Distributions

Python Distributions:

- Anaconda (using in lab) - <https://www.continuum.io/downloads>
 - Available on all systems
- Canopy - <https://store.enthought.com/downloads/#default>
 - Available on all systems
- WinPython - <https://winpython.github.io/>
 - Windows specific data science distribution

Using a distribution simplifies the process of setting up your python environment, includes necessary data packages, and integrate useful tools (IDE's, notebooks, etc)

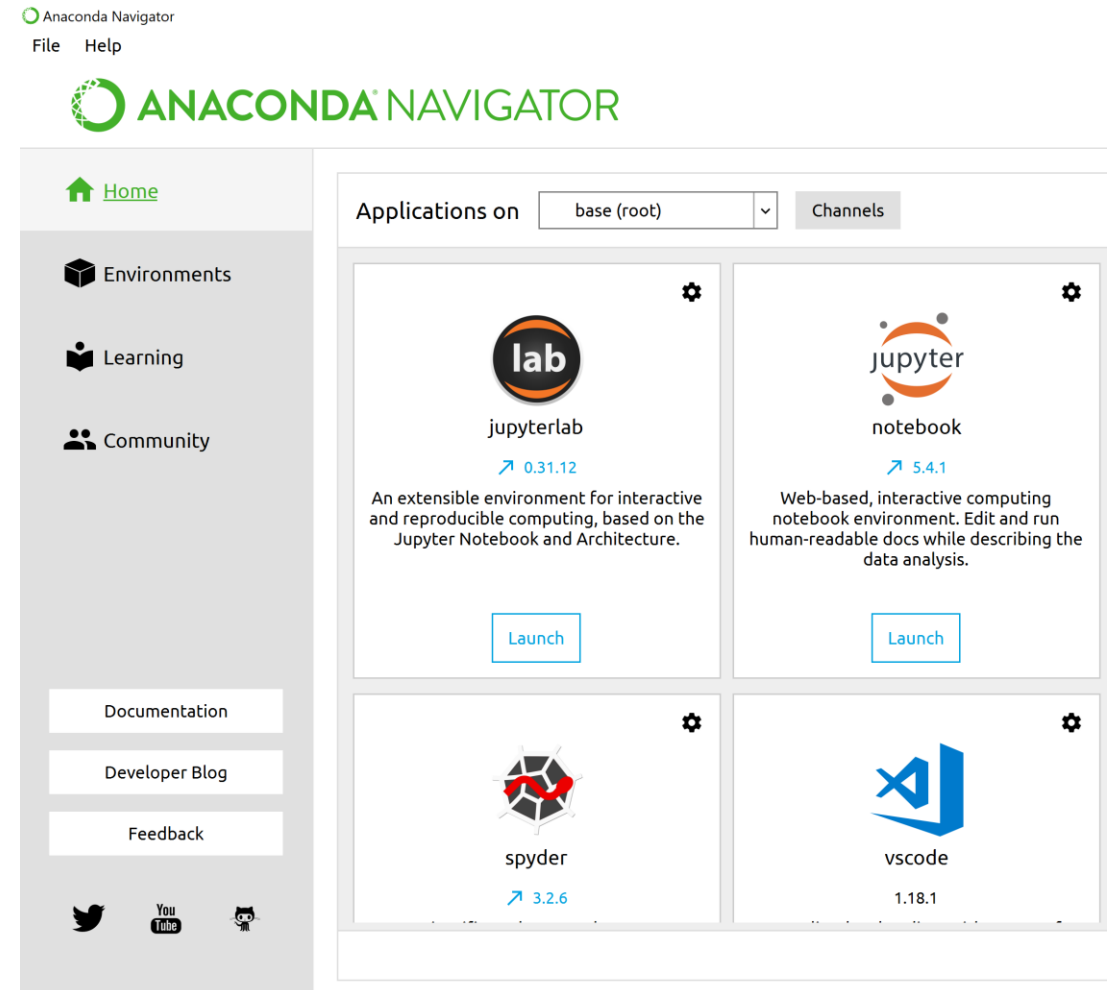
In class we will be using the Anaconda Distribution



Anaconda

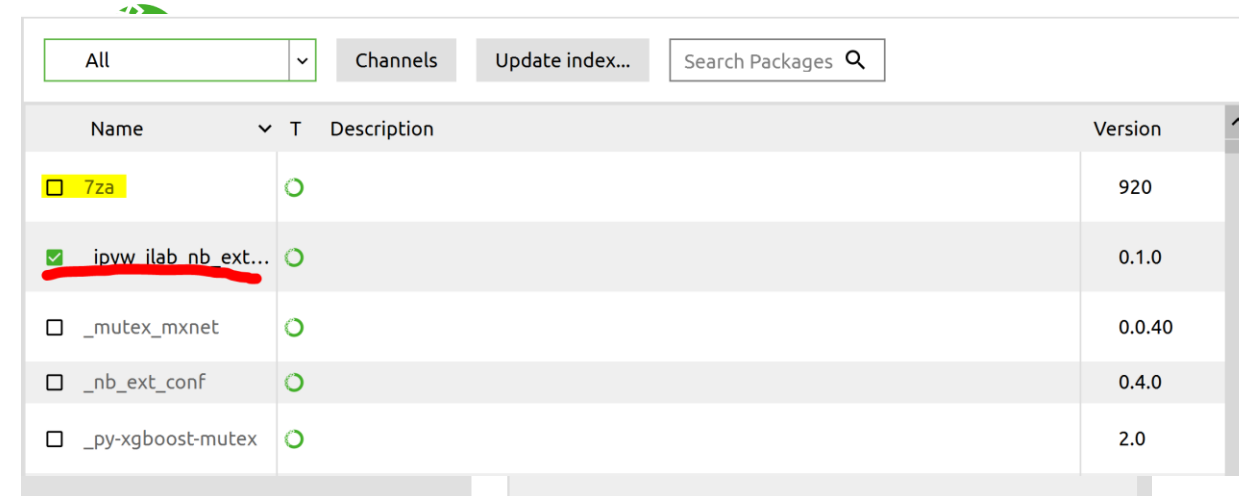
Anaconda Navigator

- The Navigator is a main landing page for working with your python environment.
- Here we can launch editors (spyder, jupyter notebook, etc.) to write and develop python code
- In addition we can manage (install packages, etc.) our python environment



Anaconda Environments

- Clicking on the “Environment” tab will show us what environments are available in Anaconda
 - In the simplest terms, an anaconda “environment” is a self-contained collection of python packages.
- From the “Environment” tab we can see which packages are **installed** and which packages are available for **installation**.
 - If you click on a package for **installation**, you’ll be prompted to **Apply** your changes



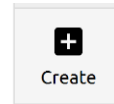
The screenshot shows the Anaconda Environment Manager interface. At the top, there is a dropdown menu set to 'All', a 'Channels' button, an 'Update index...' button, and a 'Search Packages' search bar. Below this is a table with columns: Name, T, Description, and Version. The table lists several packages, with the first one, '7za', highlighted in yellow. The second package, 'ipvw ilab nb_ext...', is checked with a green checkbox and has a red underline. The other packages are unchecked.

Name	T	Description	Version
<input type="checkbox"/> 7za	○		920
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ipvw ilab nb_ext...	○		0.1.0
<input type="checkbox"/> _mutex_mxnet	○		0.0.40
<input type="checkbox"/> _nb_ext_conf	○		0.4.0
<input type="checkbox"/> _py-xgboost-mutex	○		2.0

Setting Up Class Environment

- For this class I've provided an environment file on blackboard. This environment should include all of the packages necessary for the class and can be installed as follows:

1. Navigate to the “Environment” tab in Anaconda.
2. Click on the “Create” button
3. On the resulting window, provide a name for your environment
4. Next (for specification file) navigate to the provided .yaml file
5. Import

A screenshot of the "Import new environment" dialog box in Anaconda. The dialog has a dark blue header with the title "Import new environment" and a close button (X). It contains three input fields: "Name:" with the value "ProgrammingAnalytics", "Location:" with a redacted path, and "Specification File" with the value "Path_to_file.yaml". There is a folder icon button to the right of the "Specification File" field. At the bottom right, there are "Cancel" and "Import" buttons.

Import new environment

Name: ProgrammingAnalytics

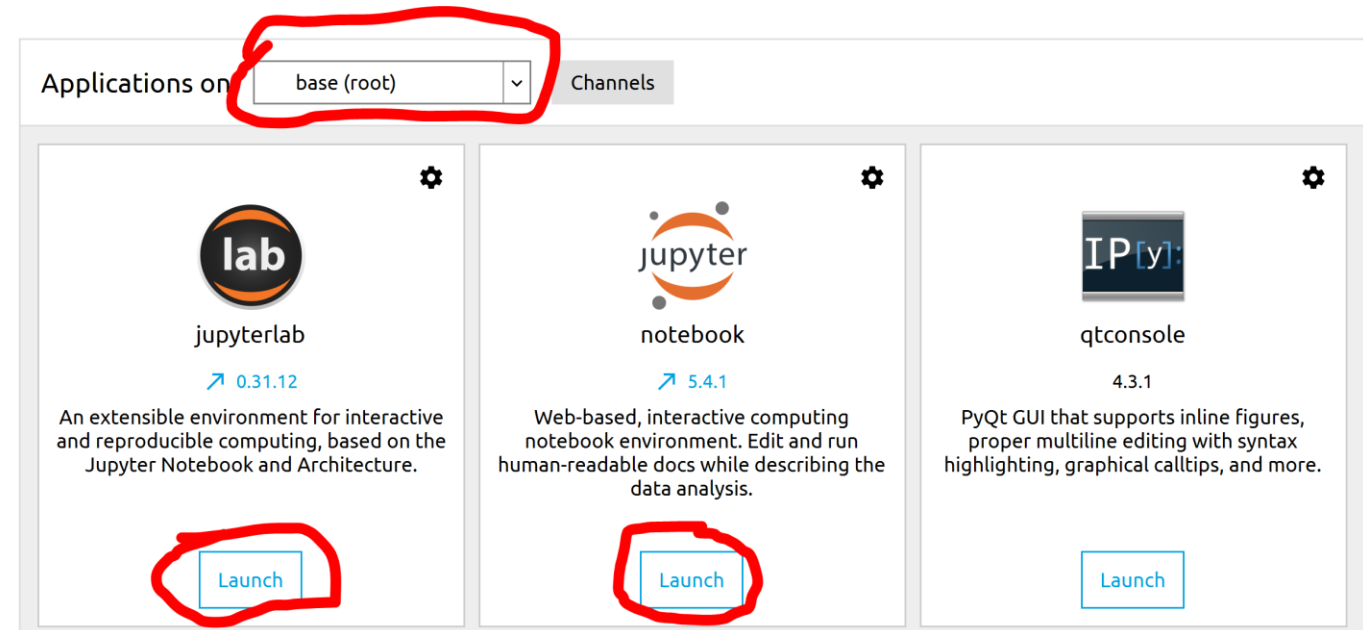
Location: [Redacted]

Specification File: Path_to_file.yaml

Cancel Import

Anaconda Applications

- On the home page we can choose which environment (base(root) in the img) we want to launch applications from.
- Clicking the “Launch” button on any of these applications will launch a separate window.



IDE's and Text Editors

Spyder

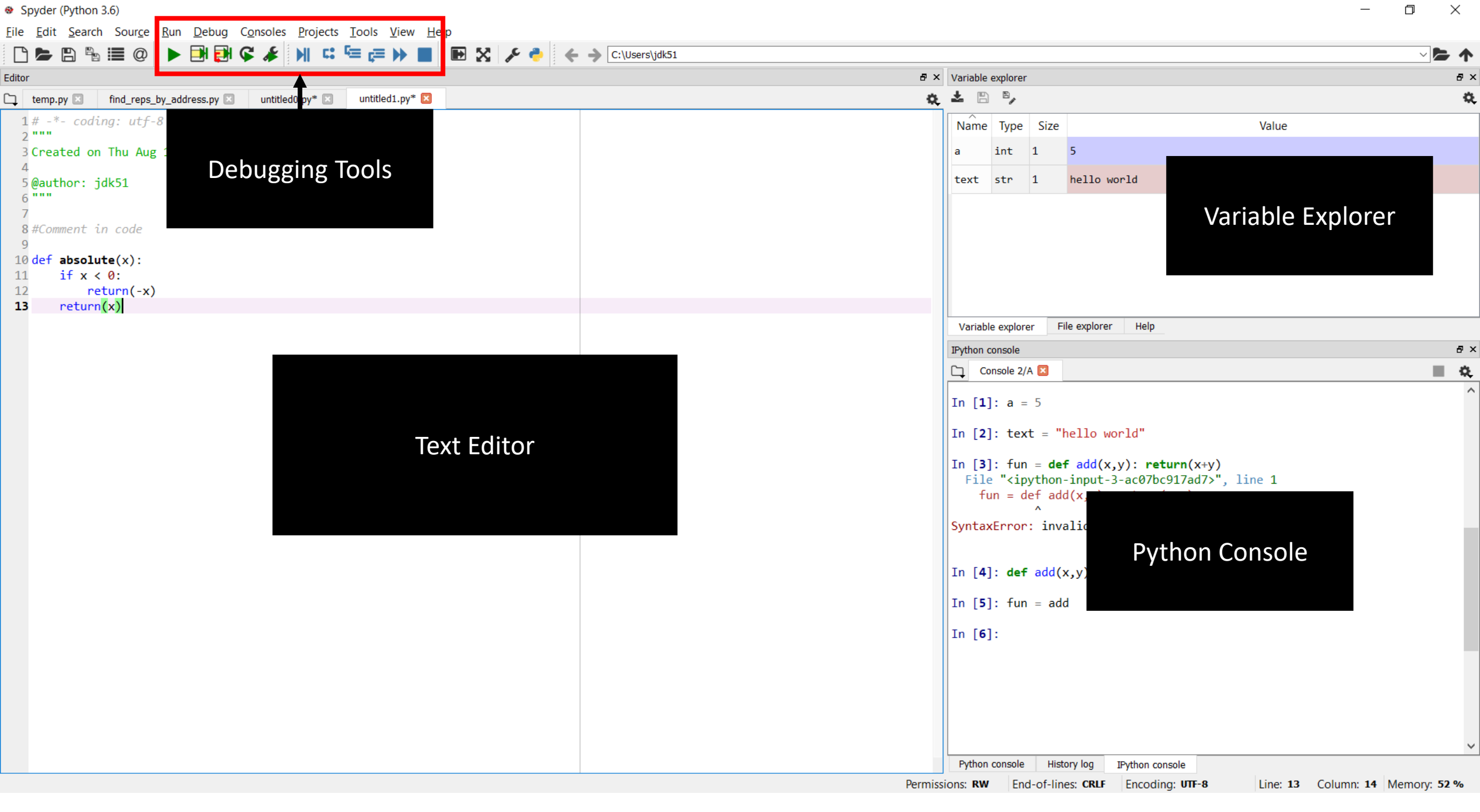
Spyder is an IDE (Interactive Development Environment) for python that is built into Anaconda (it can be installed on its own).

Features:

- Built in python console
- Built in debugging
- Variable Explorer

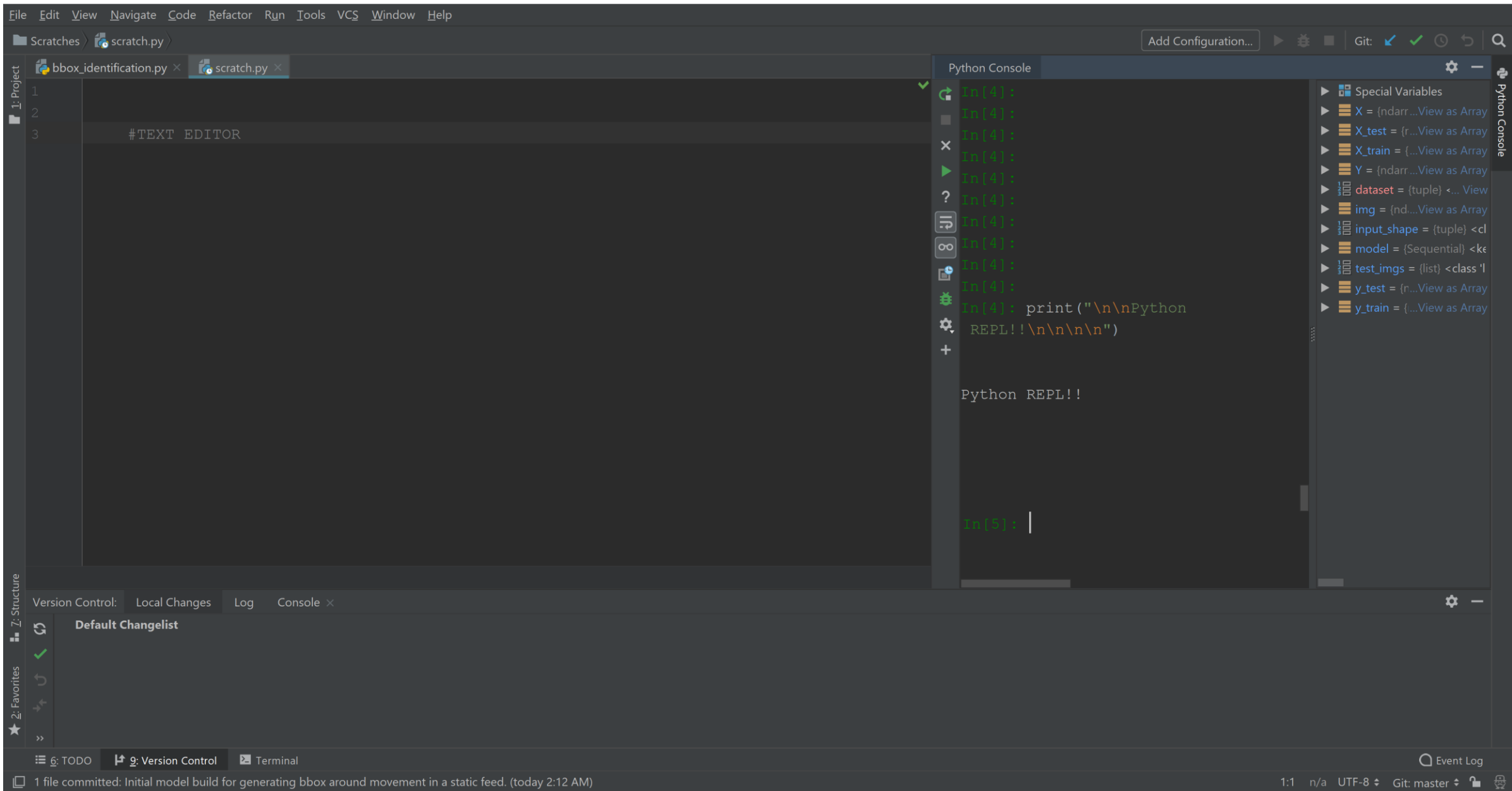
Drawbacks:

- Limited configuration
 - Debugging can be temperamental
 - Limited autocomplete
-



PyCharm

- PyCharm is a more fully featured IDE which has a lot of tools used for project management.
- It is a more complicated piece of software, and will require connecting to your anaconda distribution, but it has a lot of nice features
 - Good debugging
 - Lots of customization
 - Integration with GIT
 - Etc.



Sublime/Atom

Sublime and Atom are both very popular text editors that enable high level of configuration and package managers for additional functionality

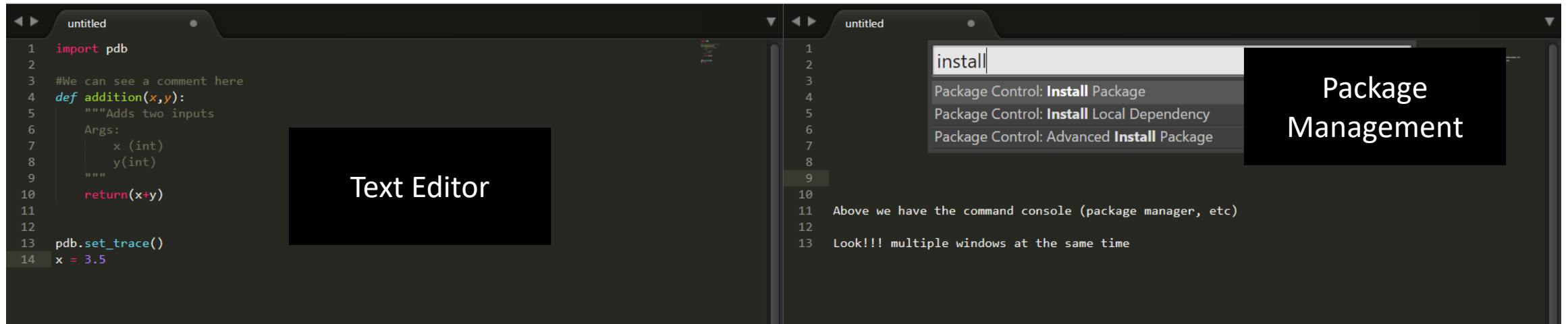
Features:

- Multi-language support
- Package manager to add functionality
- Jump to function definition

Drawbacks:

- Python console not easily integrated
- Autocompletion is temperamental
- Debugging is manual (pdb??)

Sublime Example



Questionnaire Time!

Backup Slides

Installing Python Directly

Python can be installed directly using an installer or package manager

Individual Installation:

- <https://www.python.org/downloads/release/python-361/>

Package Management

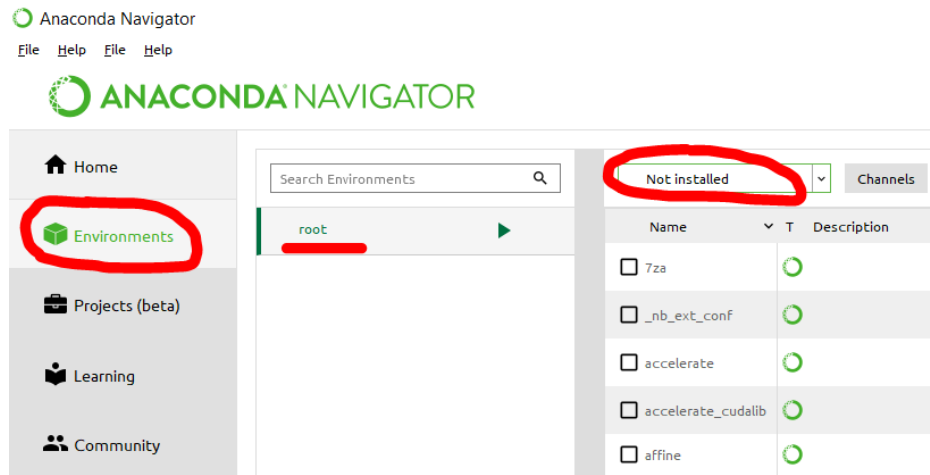
Installing Packages

Python packages are what enable us to extend the functionality of python to better fit our needs

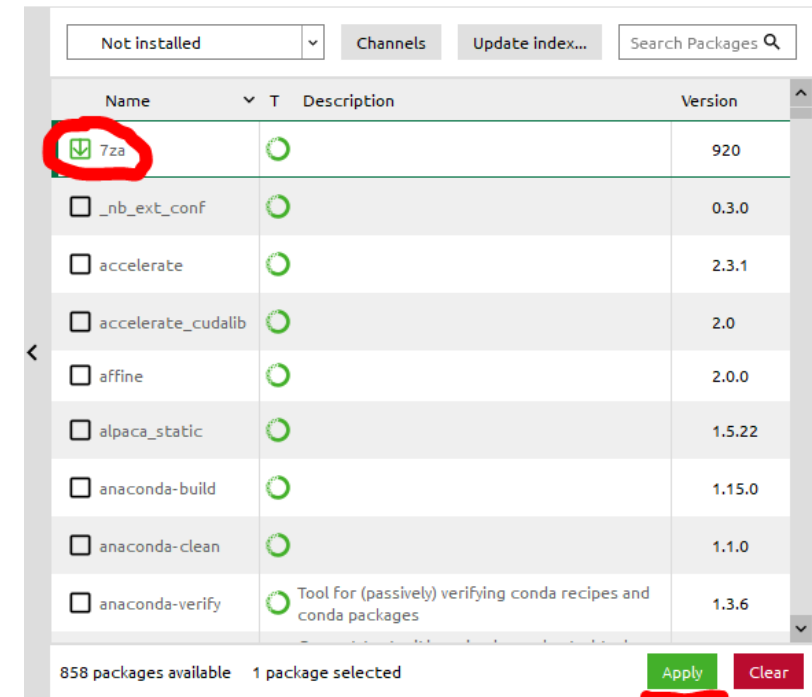
Anaconda comes with a number of essential packages (scikit-learn, NumPy, Pandas, etc) we will be using throughout this course, but it may be necessary to install additional packages as needed

Pip is the primary method for installing packages, but Anaconda also has an internal package management tool

Installing Packages with Anaconda



1. Navigate to the Environments tab in Anaconda Navigator
2. Ensure you've selected the root environment
3. Filter the packages by "Not Installed"



4. Select the required package
5. Apply the changes

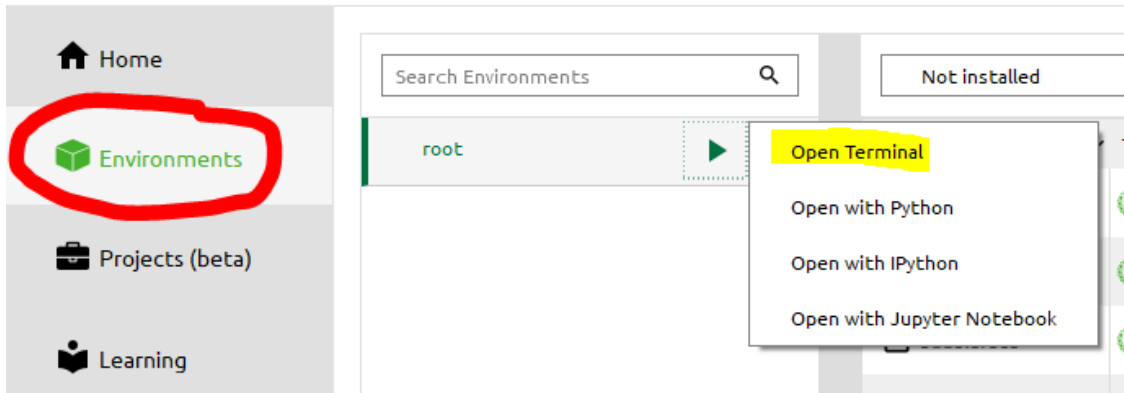
Installing Packages with pip

1. Open up a terminal connected to python (python needs to be a part of the PATH)
2. Run “pip install {package-name}”

Anaconda Navigator

File Help File Help

ANACONDA NAVIGATOR



Note:

You can access a terminal connected to python in Anaconda from the environments tab. From there just hit the play button and then “Open Terminal”