Installing Visual Studio Code and Connecting it with Anaconda

* Visual Studio Code also known as VS code is a code editor developed my Microsoft.
* In the Stack Overflow 2023 Developer Survey VS code was the most popular environment tool
* I will use VS code for this class. If you have a different favorite code editor, you are welcome to use it, but all the lecture notes and examples will be presented in VS code.

**Installation process**

1. Go to the [Visual Studio Code Website](https://code.visualstudio.com/download) and select your operating system (Windows, Mac, etc.).

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1. Run the VS code executable. I recommend you use the default options in the installation process.

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1. Once the installation is complete, you will see a VS code window similar to this:

A screenshot of a computer

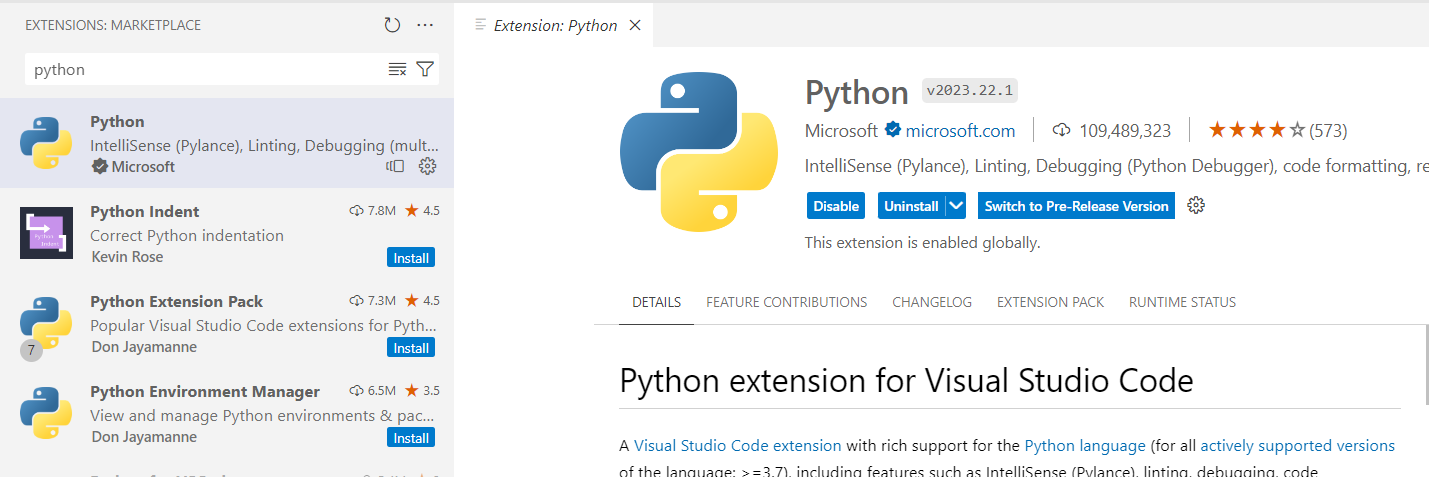
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Note: the explorer folders on the left and the welcome message may be different for you, but that’s not a problem.

**Connecting VS code and Anaconda**

1. Install the Python extension in VS Code

<https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=ms-python.python>



1. To connect Anaconda with VS code, we will change the *Python Interpreter.* To do so, type CTRL + SHIFT + P to open the settings palette:

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1. Select the “*Python: Select Interpreter*” option. If VS code recognizes anaconda (which is usually the case), you will see the “*Python 3.11.4 (‘base’)*” option (or a more recent version depending on your computer). The ‘*base*’ in parentheses refers to what is known as an Anaconda virtual environment. We will discuss the idea of virtual environments more in class.

Note: the python version (in this example 3.11.4) can change depending on the Python version you installed using Anaconda, but that should not be an issue.

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1. We will check that the connection is working during our first class.