POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

Introduction to Python

Table of contents

Introduction

Why Python?

- **Easy to learn!**
- **Easy to read**

  Almost like writing a series of instructions
- **High-level language**

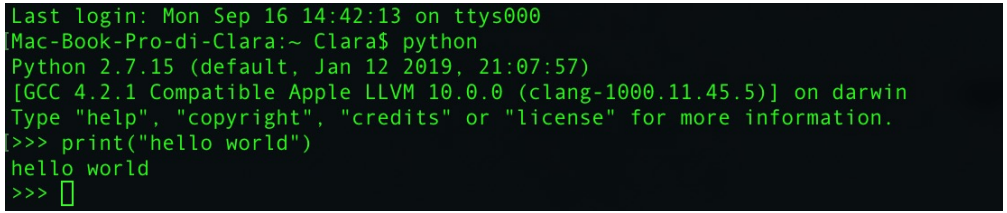
  Object oriented
- **Interpreted language**

  No need to compile
- **Multi-platform**

  Linux, Windows, OSX

Python Execution

- **Interactive Mode**
  - Run the command `python` in terminal
  - Write and run sequentially each operation separately



- **Non-interactive Mode**
  - Create a file containing your code, e.g., `my_code.py`
  - Run the code using the command `python my_code.py`

Tools

Package Managers

- **Packages and Modules**
  - Python can be easily expanded through packages and modules
  - Popular libraries: scipy, numpy, scikit-learn, librosa …

- **PIP**

```
pip install numpy
```

- **Conda**

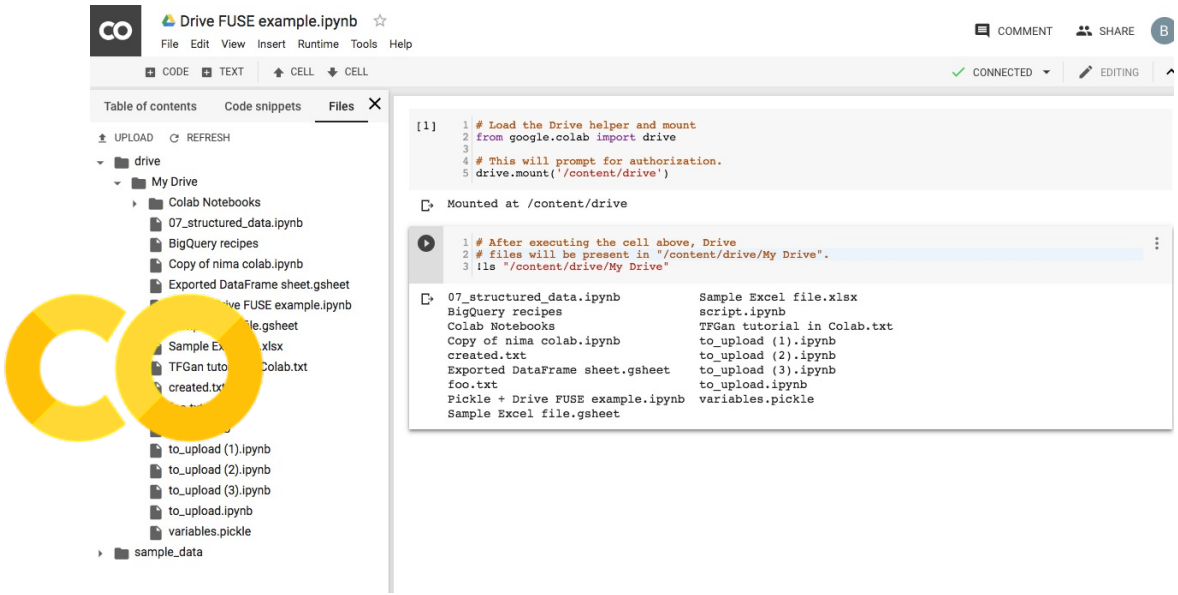
```
conda install numpy
```

- Others…

Python Tools

For the next labs you can:

- choose to install Python and its tools locally on your computer (suggested)
- use Google Colaboratory



Install Python locally: Conda

Conda is an open source package management system and environment management system:

- compatible with Windows, MacOS, Linux
- install, run and updates packages and their dependencies
- creates, saves, loads and switches between environments
- created for Python but it can package and distribute software for any language

Install Python locally: Miniconda

Miniconda is a small light version of conda. It includes conda (the package manager), Python (the interpreter) and some additional packages.

https://docs.conda.io/en/latest/miniconda.html

Note: we will use Miniconda to install Python too (it is included!).

If you have previous versions of Python they will not be affected by the Miniconda installation.

Install Python locally: Miniconda Mac OS

1. Download **Miniconda3 Python 3.8 pkg version (not bash)** for MacOS
2. Run the installer
3. Open Terminal (or similar)
4. Write and run `conda update conda`
5. if you see something like `(base)` at the start of the line in your Terminal, then it means that the base environment of Conda is activated by default on startup. If you want to disable this, run:

```
conda config --set auto_activate_base false
```

Note: the installation path will be something like `/Users/name/opt/miniconda3`

Every time you will need to use Conda, you will need to open the Terminal application

Install Python locally: Miniconda Windows

1. Download **Miniconda3 Python 3.8** for Windows
2. Run the installer leaving default options
3. When it is finished, you will have a new application called **Anaconda Powershell Prompt**
4. Open Anaconda Powershell Prompt and run `conda update conda`

Note: everytime we will use Python and Conda you will need to use this prompt

Install Python locally: Create an environment

What is a conda environment and why is it useful?

Using conda, you can create an isolated python *environment* for your project. An environment is a set of packages that can be used in one or multiple projects

We can create a conda environemnt in two ways:

- manual specifications of packages
- specify environment file in YAML format

Install Python locally: Environment manual creation

```
conda create -n name_of_the_environment python=3.8
```

you can specify a version of Python, install at creation time some specific packages with specific versions of the package

Install Python locally: Creation from an yml file

- define an **yml** file (we are not going to do this today)
  https://docs.conda.io/projects/conda/en/latest/user-guide/tasks/manage-environments.html#create-env-file-manually
- to create an environment from an yml file run simply

```
conda env create -f environment.yml
```

Install Python locally: Activation of the environment

For using the environment you will first need to activate it

```
conda activate name_of_the_environment
```

To de-activate the environment and return to your basic shell

```
conda deactivate
```

Everytime we start a lab session we will need to activate the environment.

Install Python locally: Install packages with conda

When you are **inside an environment** you can install packages using

```
conda install name_of_the_package
```

These packages are valid and will be accessible only from this environment.

Try to install some packages in the new created environment.

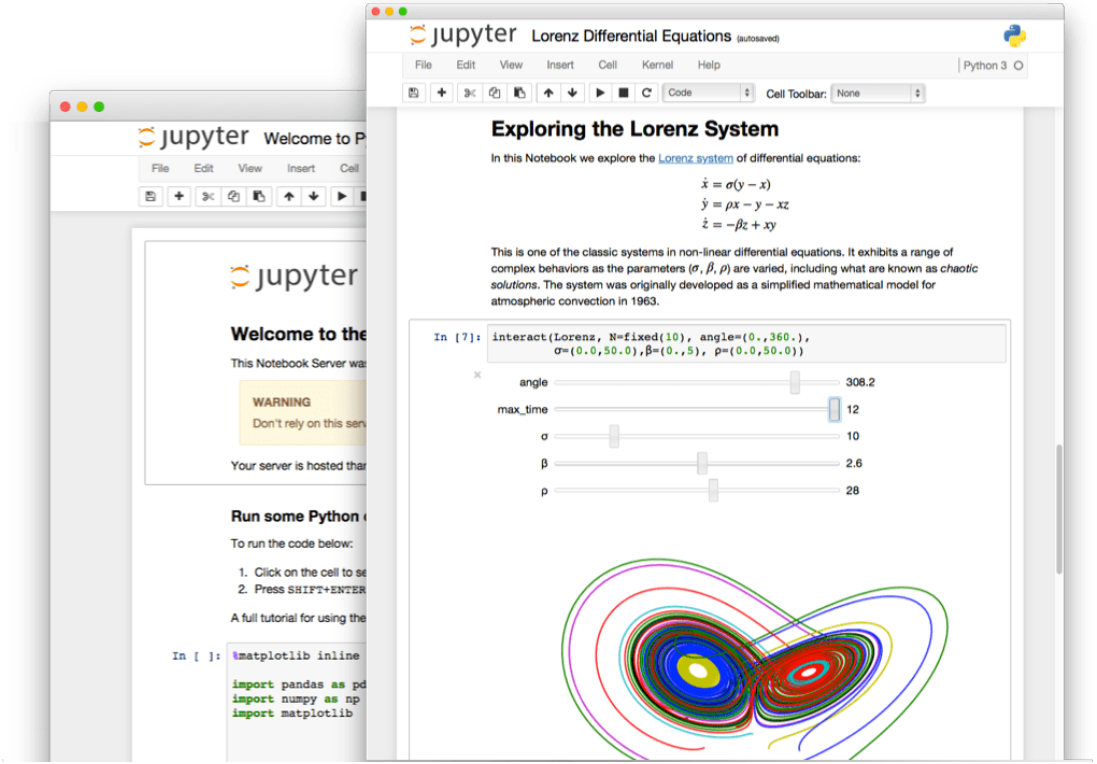
First activate the environment and then install:

- `numpy`
- `scipy`
- `jupyter notebook`

Install Python locally: IDE and Editors

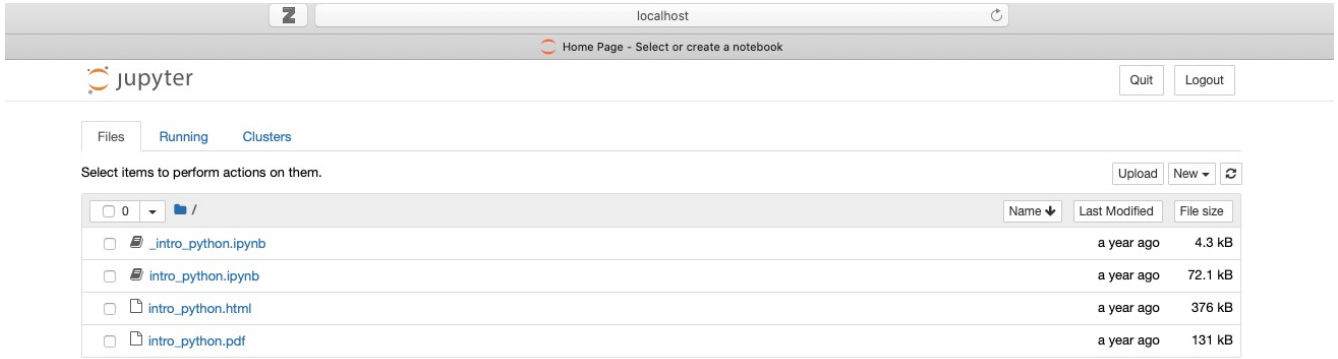
Jupiter Notebook

is an open-source web application that allows you to create and share documents that contain live code, equations, visualizations and narrative text.



Install Python locally: Jupyter Notebook

When you type `jupyter notebook` in your conda env →



A new window in a browser will be opened automatically.

The windows is the user interface that access to Jupyter Notebook server on the address `localhost:8888` (usually, you can check it on the output in the terminal).

All the notebooks present in the folder **from which you launched the command** are visible and executable.

Install Python locally : Instructions for the LABS

During these labs:

- I will upload the needed notebooks and files on BeeP portal as a ZIP file. Usually it will be something like:

```
|--notebook1.ipynb
|--notebook2.ipynb
|--audio
|   |--audio1.wav
|   |--audio2.wav
|--img
|   |--img1.png
|   |--img2.png
```

Do not change this hierarchy! We will need it for loading audio files and images in our notebooks!

Python locally : Instructions for the LABS

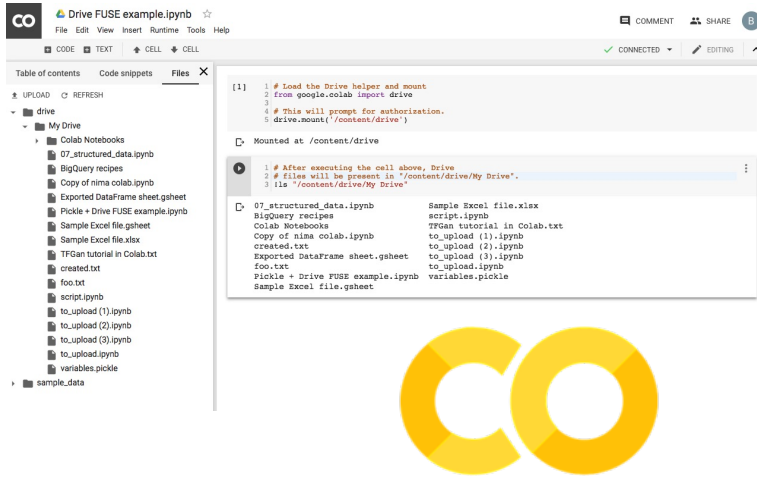
- Download and unzip the ZIP file
- Navigate with the Terminal/Anaconda Powershell Prompt in the folder in which you have the lab folder
- Run `conda activate name-of-the-environment`
- Run `jupyter notebook`
- The notebooks I will provide you are partially empty: together, during the labs, we will write and run the code for completing them
- If you need a package in your code, you can always install it by calling `conda install name_of_the_package` inside your environment

Python on the web: Google Colab

- **Google Colaboratory**

allows you to write code and test it directly on the browser. It is, in practice, a Jupyter Notebook which runs on remote servers of Google.

The notebook are automatically saved on your Google Drive.



Drawbacks:

- the service is not always guaranteed and the session expires after some time
- loading external files can be complex

Python on the web: Google Colab

- open the link https://colab.research.google.com/notebooks/intro.ipynb
- to create an empty notebook click on File / Create New Notebook (Note: you have to be logged in Google)
- to load a notebook (like the one I will provide you for the labs) use File / Load New Notebook
- write and execute you code
- if you need an external package not already included use
  `!pip install name_of_the_package`
  https://colab.research.google.com/notebooks/snippets/importing_libraries.ipynb
- if you need external file use the left side panel and load them directly; in alternative check this https://colab.research.google.com/notebooks/io.ipynb

Python on the web: Instructions for the LABS

- Download and unzip the ZIP file
- Load the notebooks on Google Colab
- Install necessary packages not included
- Load the audio and images files in the Google Colab session, keeping the hierarchy

Main Concepts

Comments

- **Text ignored during execution**
  - Useful to describe what is happening in the code to the reader

- **Comments start with character #**
  - … till the end of the line
  - Character # can still be used in strings

```
# this is the first comment
SPAM = 1                 # and this is the second comment
                         # ... and now a third!
STRING = "# This is not a comment".
```

Numbers

- In interactive mode, Python prints operation outputs
- Common operators are *, +, -, /
- Characters (and) can be used to group operations
- **Warning**: Python2 vs. Python3 integer division!!

```
>>> 2*2
4
>>> (50-5*6)/4
5
>>> 7/3    #integer division returns the floor
2
>>> 2**3   #exponentiation
8
```

Variables

- It is possible to associate values to variables
- Python exploits **dynamic typing**
  - No need to declare variable type (e.g., int, float, char, etc.)
- **Warning**: do not confuse = (i.e., assignment) and == (i.e., comparison)

```
>>> a = 20
>>> b = 5*9
>>> a * b
900
```

Strings

- String is a structure containing **text data**
- Declared using ‘ or “
- Escape character \ is used to include ‘ or “ within strings
- print can be used to show string content
- **Warning**: Python2 vs. Python3 print syntax

```
>>> print(‘spam eggs’)
spam eggs
>>> print(‘doesn\’t’)
doesn’t
>>> print(“doesn’t”)
doesn’t
>>> print(‘”Yes,” he said.’)
”Yes,” he said.
>>> print(“\”Yes,\” he said.”)
“Yes,” he said.
>>> print(‘”Isn\’t,” she said.’)
“Isn’t,” she said.
```

List and tuples

- **Lists are sequences of editable variables**
- Lists can be concatenate, sorted, re-ordered, etc.
- Declared using [and]

```
>>> a = ['spam', 'eggs', 100, 1234]
>>> a
['spam', 'eggs', 100, 1234]
>>> a[0]
'spam'
>>> a[1:3]
['eggs', 100]
>>> a[:2] + ['bacon', 2*2]
['spam', 'eggs', 'bacon', 4]
>>> a.append(9.87)
>>> a
['spam', 'eggs', 100, 1234, 9.87]
```

- **Tuples are non-editable**
- Declared using (and)

Control Structures

- **If / Else**

  use operators <, >, ==, !=

```
>>> x = 5
>>> if x < 0:
...     print('negative')
...  elif x == 0:
...     print('zero')
...  else:
...     print('positive')
...
positive
```

- **For**

  hints: 'zip', 'enumerate', 'tqdm'

```
>>> # Measure some strings
...  a = ['cat', 'window', 'defenestrate']
>>> for x in a:
...     print(x, len(x))
...
cat 3
window 6
defenestrate 12
```

Indentation

- **Python uses indentation to group code portions**
  - Hard constraint!
- Indentation must be uniform
  - Use the same amount of tabs or spaces for each group of codes

```
>>> if True:
...     print 'x'  #leading space is a TAB
...     print 'y'  #leading space is four SPACEs
  File "<stdin>", line 3
    print 'y'  #leading space is four SPACEs
                                           ^
IndentationError: unindent does not match any outer indentation level
```

Functions

- Defined using constructor ‘def’
- Can return multiple variables as well as lists
- **Warning**: risk of changing variable values outside functions

```
>>> def power (base, exponent):
...     return base**exponent
...
>>> power(2,3)
8
>>> power(2,4)
16
>>> range(4)  #Standard Python function
[0, 1, 2, 3]
```

Modules

- Files containing multiple functions and instructions
  - also known as libraries
- Python contains some standard modules (e.g., os, math, sys, etc.)
- Modules must be imported before use (i.e., import …)
  - It is possible to import submodules (i.e., from … import …)

```
>>> import os
>>> os.getcwd()
'/Users/Clara/'
>>> from math import factorial
>>> factorial(5)
120
```

Object-oriented Programming

- It is possible to use “special” variables that contains functions and other variables
- These are generated starting from “classes”

```
class rettangolo:

    def __init__(self, l1, l2):
        self.l1 = l1
        self.l2 = l2

    def area(self)
        return self.l1*self.l2
```

```
>>> rett1 = rettangolo(2,5)
>>> rett1.area()
10
>>> rett1 = rettangolo(4,4)
>>> rett1.area()
16
```

Hands on