

Introduction to Python (for neuroscience)

NSP bootcamp

Daniel Denman

Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics

Plan for Thursday AM

- Introduction (45 min)
- Set up Python environments (5 - 15 min)
- Break
- Intro Jupyter notebook (with instructor) (X min)]

Plan for Thursday PM

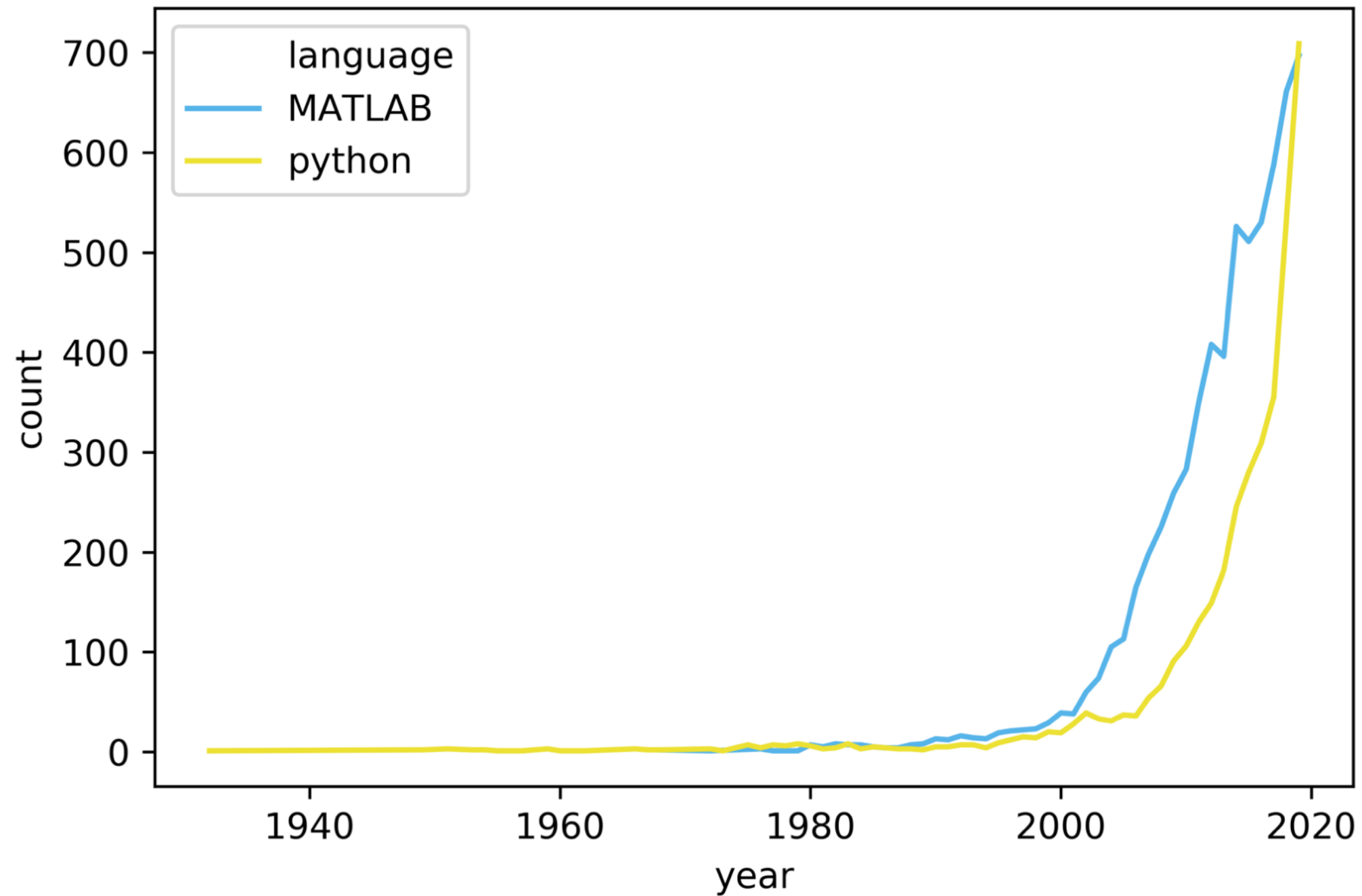
- Independent data analysis notebooks (60 min).
- Intro to cloud-based Jupyter and team set up.
- Break
- Independent data analysis notebooks -
collaboration in the cloud

why code?

- Python or MATLAB? **yes.**
- **Python was developed to make it easier for people to automate simple tasks (“scripting”)**
- **You **could** do things by hand, but why not have a computer do it?**

history: languages used for neuroscience

history: languages used for neuroscience



history: languages used for neuroscience

Volume 16 Issue 12, December 2019



Focus on Deep Learning in Microscopy

Artwork representing the application of deep learning methods in microscopy.

Image: National Institutes of Health/Stocktrek Images/Getty. Cover design: Erin DeWalt


history: languages used for neuroscience

Volume 16 Issue 12, December 2019



Analysis | Published: 21 October 2019

Nucleus segmentation across imaging experiments: the 2018 Data Science Bowl

Juan C. Caicedo, Allen Goodman, Kyle W. Karhohs, Beth A. Cimini, Jeanelle Ackerman, Marzieh Haghighi, CherKeng Heng, Tim Becker, Minh Doan, Claire McQuin, Mohammad Rohban, Shantanu Singh & Anne E. Carpenter 

Nature Methods **16**, 1247–1253(2019) | [Cite this article](#)

3257 Accesses | **1** Citations | **41** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

2 out top 3 entries used python

history: languages used for neuroscience

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5/7 software papers used python

1 used R

1 used ImageJ (Java)




history: languages used for neuroscience



















nature methods

Article | Published: 27 July 2020

Cumulus provides cloud-based data analysis for large-scale single-cell and single-nucleus RNA-seq

Bo Li , Joshua Gould, Yiming Yang, Siranush Sarkizova, Marcin Tabaka, Orr Ashenberg, Yanay Rosen, Michal Slyper, Monika S. Kowalczyk, Alexandra-Chloé Villani, Timothy Tickle, Nir Hacohen, Orit Rozenblatt-Rosen  & Aviv Regev 

history: languages used for neuroscience

Aug 2023	Aug 2022	Change	Programming Language		Ratings	Change
1	1			Python	13.33%	-2.30%
2	2			C	11.41%	-3.35%
3	4	↑		C++	10.63%	+0.49%
4	3	↓		Java	10.33%	-2.14%
5	5			C#	7.04%	+1.64%
6	8	↑		JavaScript	3.29%	+0.89%
7	6	↓		Visual Basic	2.63%	-2.26%
8	9	↑		SQL	1.53%	-0.14%
9	7	↓		Assembly language	1.34%	-1.41%
10	10			PHP	1.27%	-0.09%
11	21	↑↑		Scratch	1.22%	+0.63%
12	15	↑		Go	1.16%	+0.20%
13	17	↑↑		MATLAB	1.05%	+0.17%
14	18	↑↑		Fortran	1.03%	+0.24%
15	31	↑↑		COBOL	0.96%	+0.59%
16	16			R	0.92%	+0.01%
17	19	↑		Ruby	0.91%	+0.18%
18	11	↓↓		Swift	0.90%	-0.35%
19	22	↑		Rust	0.89%	+0.32%

history

- **First released in 1991**
- **A “scripting” or “high-level” language, designed for readability and productivity**
 - **simple syntax, use of white space**
- **Major release: Python 2.7, July 2010**
- **Use increases**
- **“data science” after era of “Big Data”**
- **Support for Python2.7 ended Jan 1, 2020**



Guido van Rossum

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“Benevolent Dictator for Life”

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overview

Some plusses

Some minuses

overview

Some plusses

- Free
- Readable syntax
- Cross platform
- Huge community
- Used across science **and** outside of science

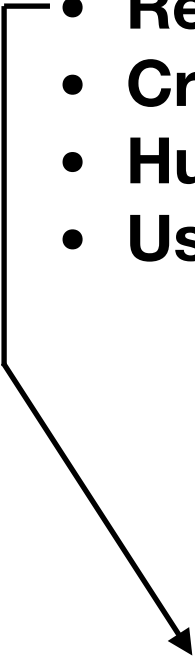
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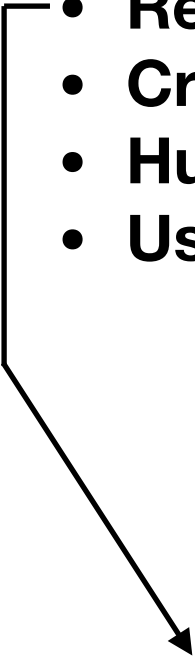
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b = 2
c = 2
if a is not b:
    print('a is not b')
if b is c:
    print('b and c are the same')
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Some minuses

- Slow[er] to execute (than C)
- White space matters (which some find to be a pain)
- **Sometimes problematic + insular culture; see “BDFL”*

**editorial opinion*



overview: Python language basics

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“high-level” :

you don't need to know how a computer *actually* works to use Python.

Memory addressing, pointers, call stacks - blah blah computer science

garbage collected:

you, the programmer do not usually need to worry about cleaning up your “garbage” - memory pointers etc. More stability, fewer resources.

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Standard library



Often written in C (again, you, the programmer, don't need to care about this), these are functions and tools that ship with Python. Widely useful, and already vetted. Backwards compatible.

overview: packages



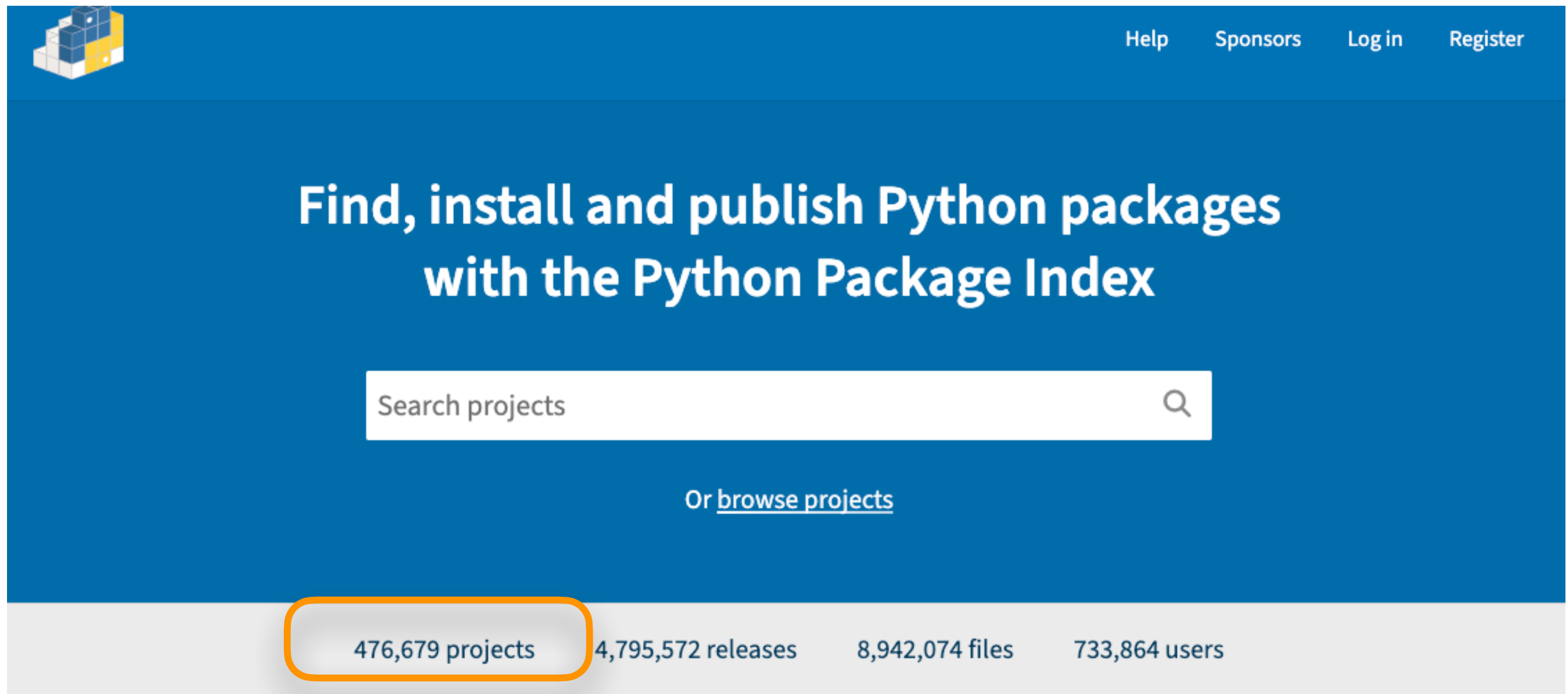
Packages

In addition to the standard library, the true power of python is the extensive world of packages available. These are sets of tools you can use with Python to do just about anything!

Some are general tools, the hammers or screwdrivers of using python for science: **numpy**, **matplotlib**, **pandas**, **seaborn**

Others are specialized: **scikit-learn**, **PIL**, **scanpy**, **Suite2P**, **DeepLabCut**, **PyTom**

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overview: levels



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System

```
danieljdenman — python — 80x24
Last login: Wed Dec 18 16:26:32 on ttys002

The default interactive shell is now zsh.
To update your account to use zsh, please run `chsh -s /bin/zsh`.
For more details, please visit https://support.apple.com/kb/HT208050.
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Python 3.7.4 (default, Aug 13 2019, 15:17:50)
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Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
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```

Native in Mac OS X, Linux; in Windows store (free)



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Package Managers Environments





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Containerized





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2 from direct.task import Task
3 # from direct.gui.OnscreenText import OnscreenText
4 # from direct.showbase.DirectObject import DirectObject
5 from direct.interval.MetaInterval import Sequence
6 from direct.interval.LerpInterval import LerpFunc
7 from direct.interval.FunctionInterval import Func
8 from panda3d.core import Mat4, WindowProperties, CardMaker, NodePath, TextureStage, MovieTexture, MovieVideo
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10 import sys, glob, time, datetime, os
11 from math import pi, sin, cos
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13 from numpy import arange, concatenate
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17 try:
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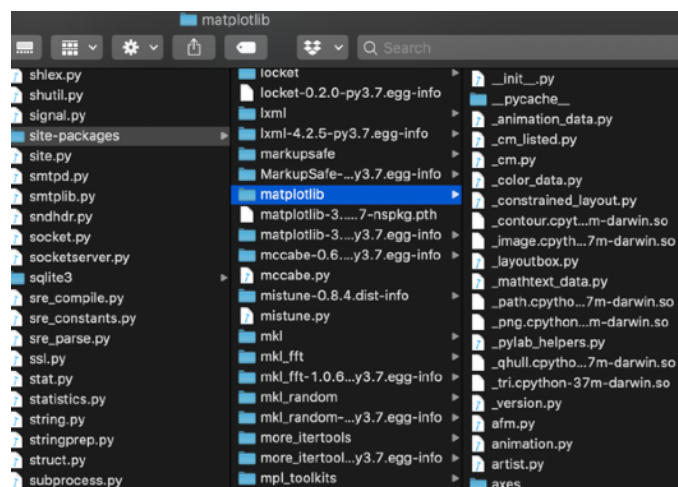
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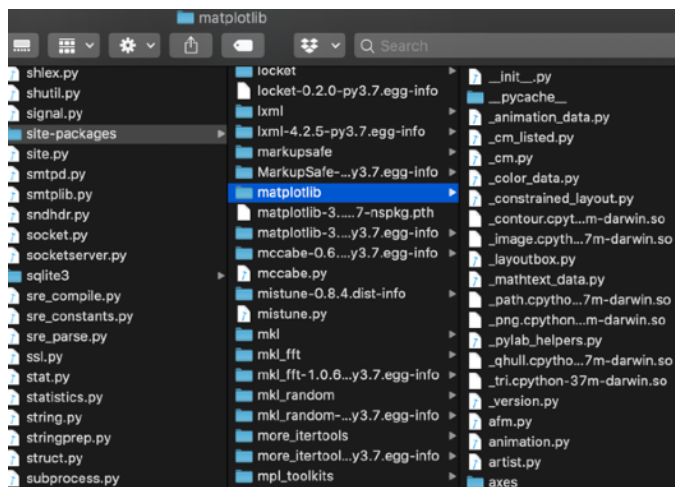
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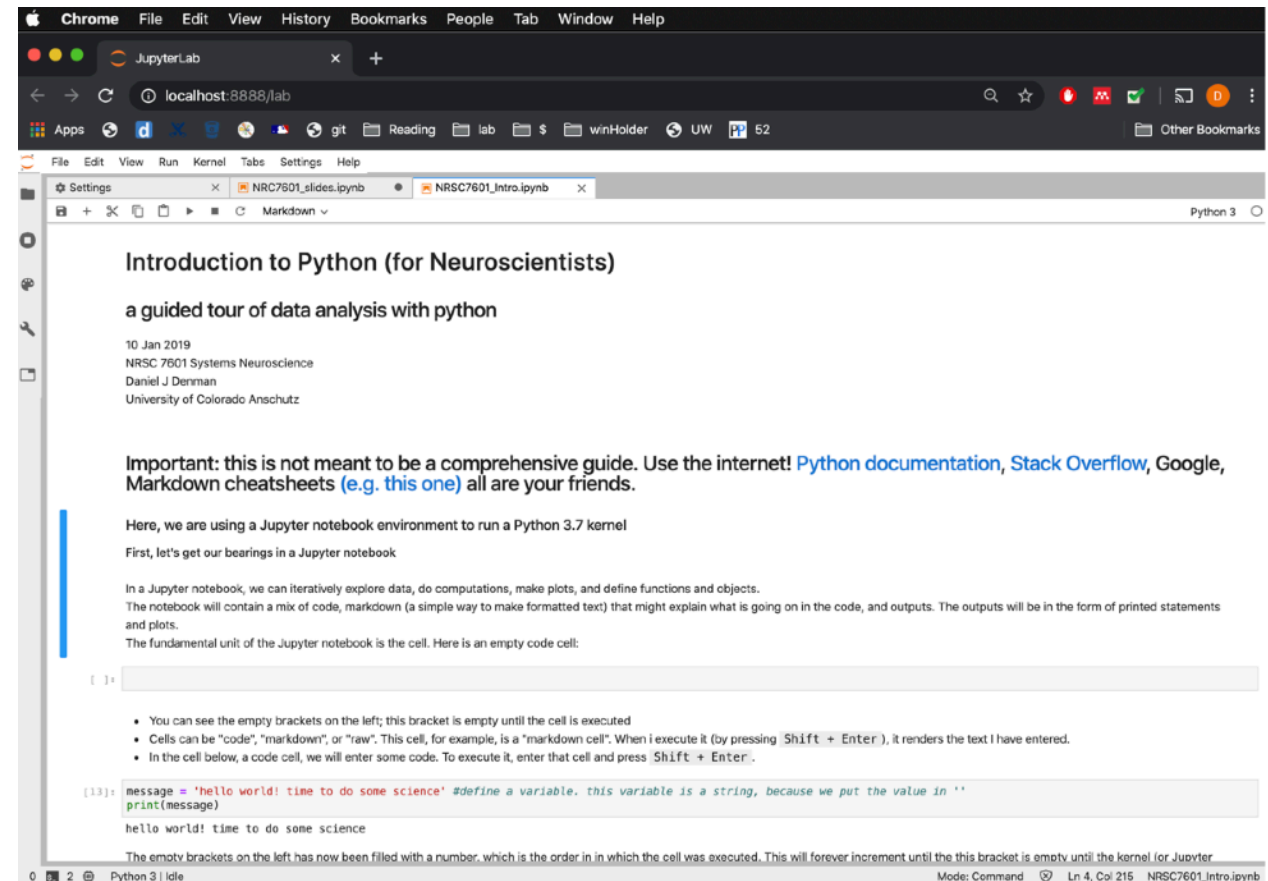
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Notebooks (IPython, Jupyter, Jupyter Lab)



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PhD to implement yourself (i.e.,
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also it is free —> democratizing science

in this realm, cloud resources (data, compute) also open science to a wider group that aren't collecting their own data and running their own super computers

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Image analysis: PIL / OpenCV
Ca2+ analysis: Suite2P, AQUA
Movement Tracking: DeepLabCut
Expression Analysis: scanpy

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Guided example:

- ☐ Variables: definitions, types
- ☐ Some important packages
- ☐ Making plots
- ☐ Functions

git

...and GitHub, are **version control**

- This is important. And not intuitive. It will likely make you frustrated and/or confused at some point.
- Version control is not optional; if you don't use git for version control, you are going to use something else (e.g.,: analysis_script_v1.py, analysis_script_v2.py, analysis_script_v2_20210622.py, analysis_script_v3_07142021.py, analysis_script_final.py, analysis_script_final2.py, ..., analysis_script_final2_for.py)
- Making git a part of your workflow can simplify and provide redundancy and flexibility; more advanced features also makes sharing simpler. Evaluation.
- git has to be installed, which we will use Anaconda to do so
- GitHub Desktop <https://desktop.github.com/> is by far the easiest way; git bash (command line) is another option
- We're going to go over some git interactively to get course materials today.