

Effective Programming Practices for Economists

Basic Python

Executing notebooks in VS Code

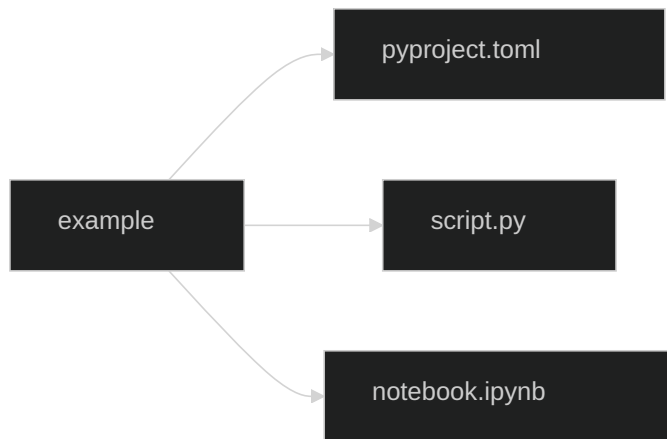
Janoś Gabler, Hans-Martin von Gaudecker, and Tim Mensinger

Preparation

We assume you have:

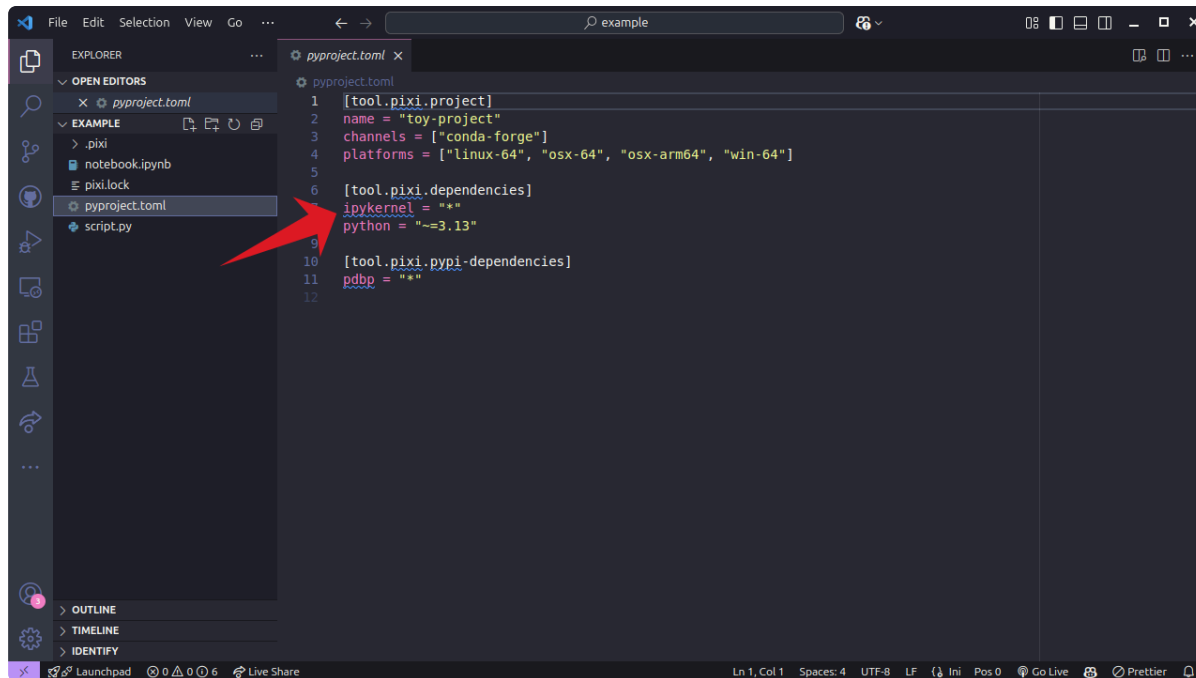
- Installed pixi
- Installed VS Code with all relevant Python extensions
- Opened the root directory of your project in VS Code, which contains a `pyproject.toml` file installing the `ipykernel` package
- Ran some pixi command and picked the correct Python interpreter in VS Code (see previous slide deck)

Example project structure



- The entire directory `example` is opened in VS Code
- We want to run `notebook.ipynb` in VS Code

1. Prerequisites: ipykernel

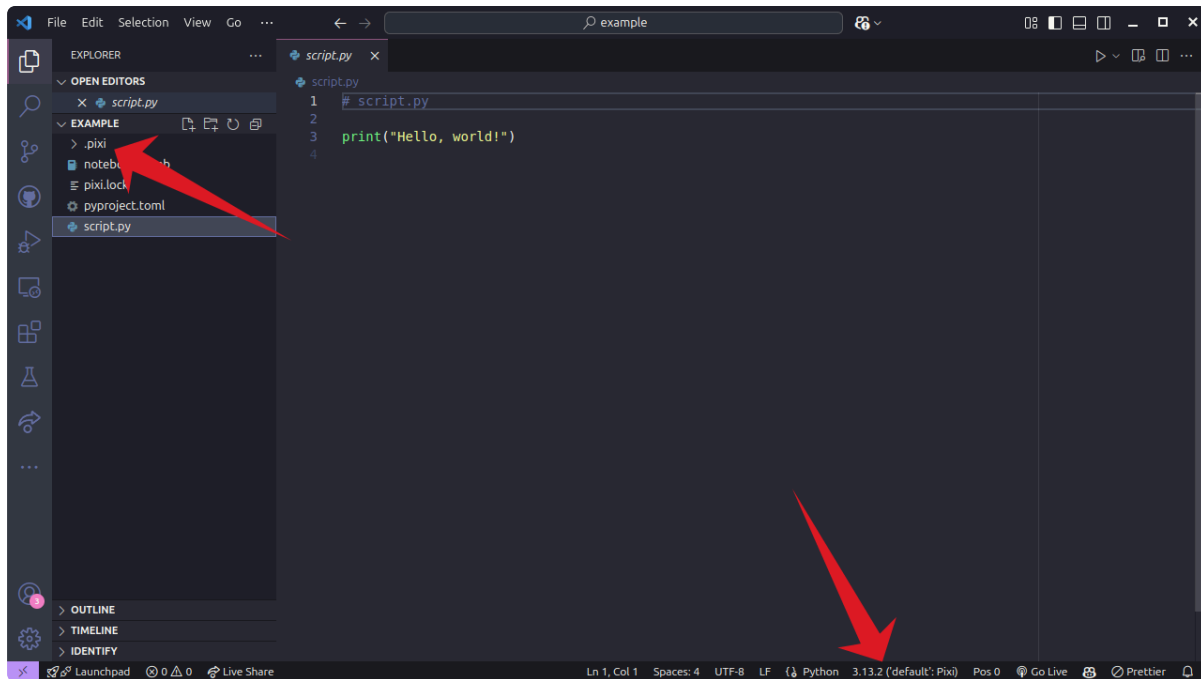


The screenshot shows a VS Code editor window with the `pyproject.toml` file open. The file contains the following content:

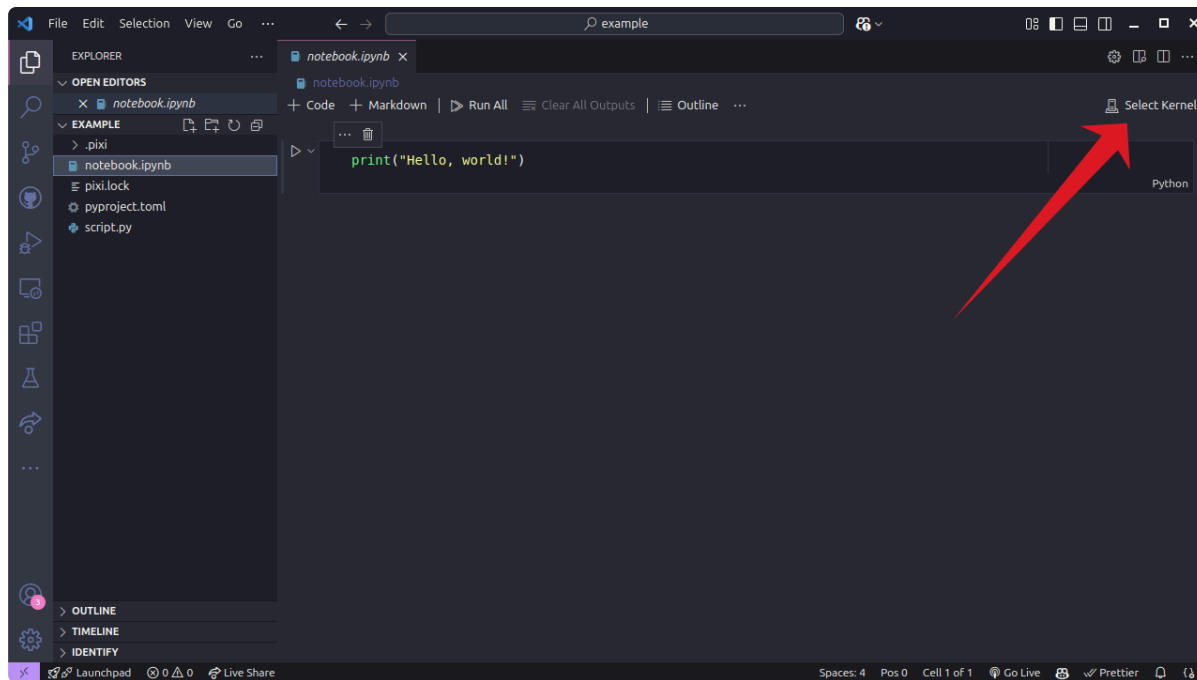
```
1 [tool.pixi.project]
2 name = "toy-project"
3 channels = ["conda-forge"]
4 platforms = ["linux-64", "osx-64", "osx-arm64", "win-64"]
5
6 [tool.pixi.dependencies]
7 ipykernel = "*"
8 python = "~=3.13"
9
10 [tool.pixi.pypi-dependencies]
11 pdbp = "*"
12
```

A red arrow points to the `ipykernel` dependency on line 7. The left sidebar shows the Explorer view with the `pyproject.toml` file selected. The bottom status bar indicates the file is at line 1, column 1, with 4 spaces, UTF-8 encoding, and LF line endings.

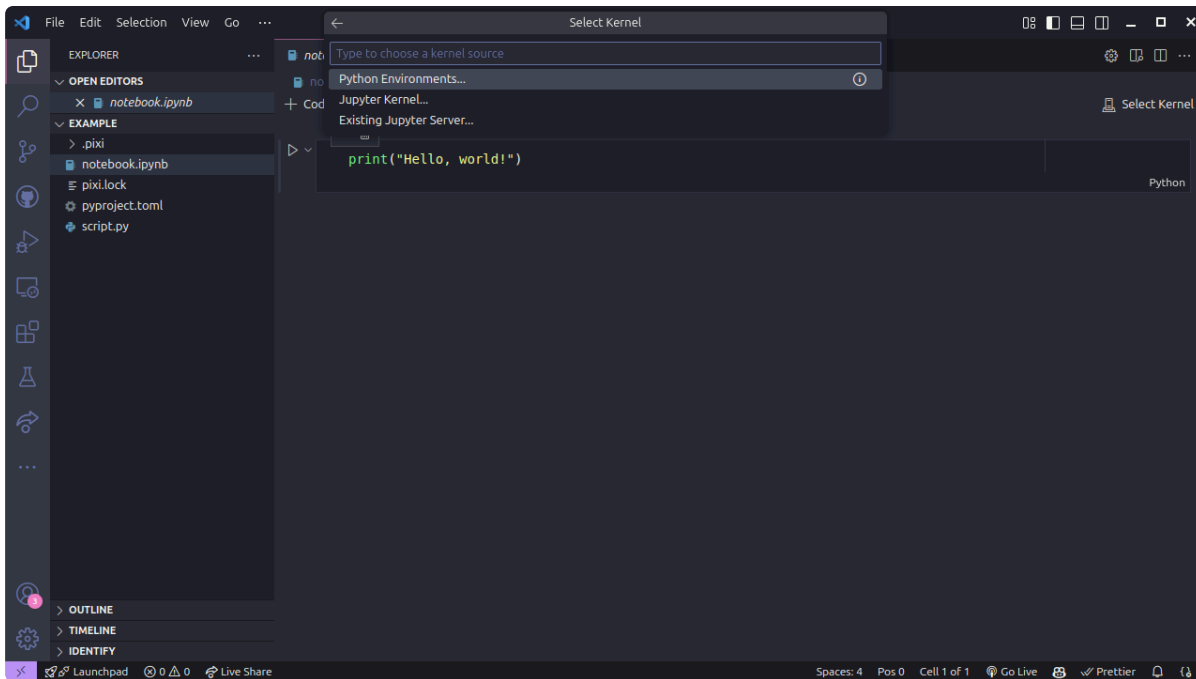
2. Prerequisites: Python env picked



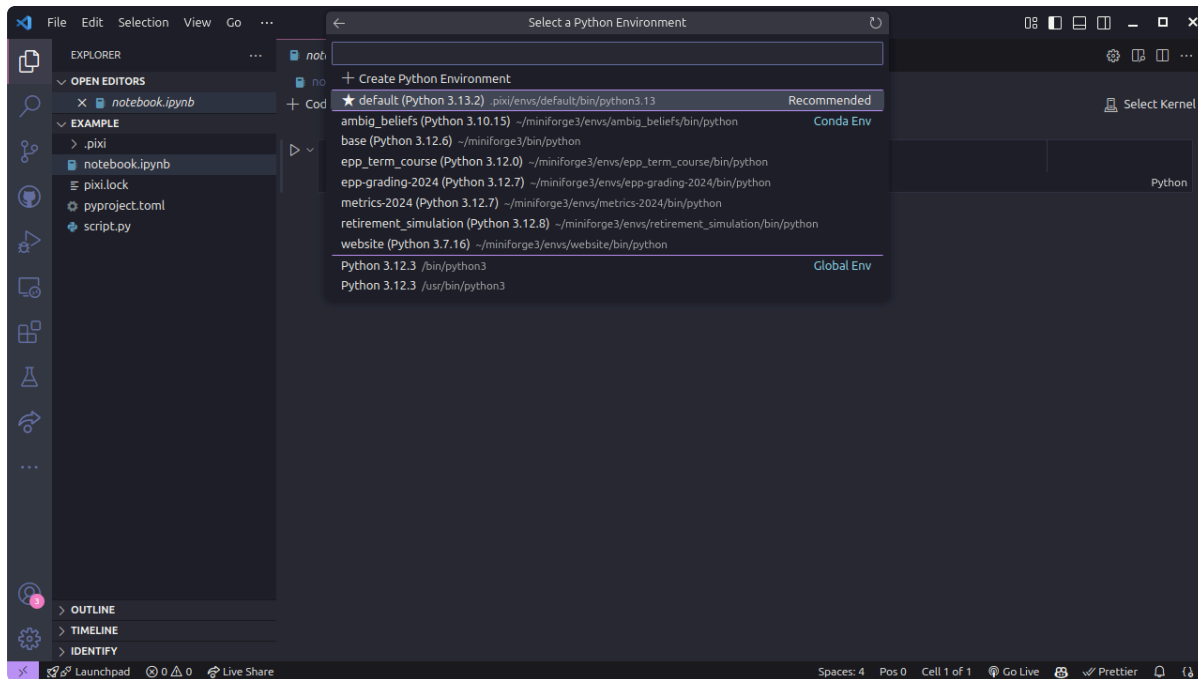
3. Select kernel



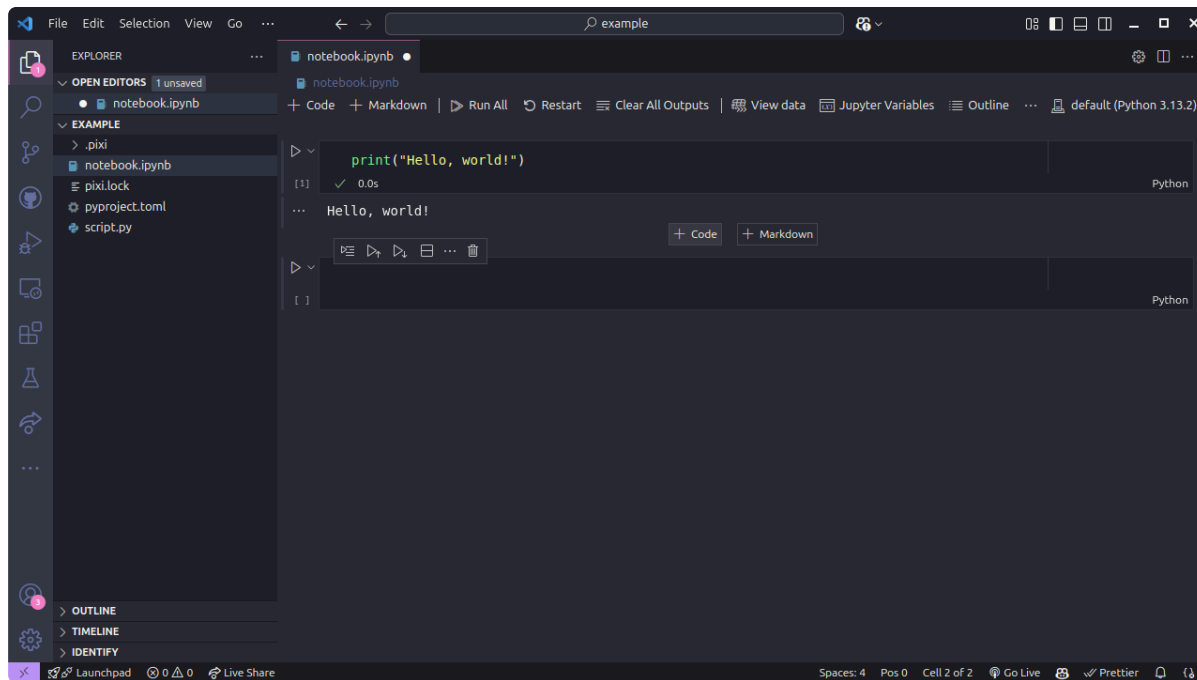
4. Select Python environment



5. Select Python environment "default"



6. Run cell via shift + enter



Important

Whenever you come back to the project, you start directly with the last step

Keyboard shortcuts

Key combination	Action
Ctrl+S	Save
ESC	Change the cell mode
A	Add a cell above
B	Add a cell below
J or down arrow key	Change a cell to below
K or up arrow key	Change a cell to above
Ctrl+Enter	Run the currently selected cell and stay in that cell
Shift+Enter	Run the currently selected cell and move to the next cell
dd	Delete a selected cell
z	Undo the last change
M	switch the cell type to Markdown
Y	switch the cell type to code