

# **Effective Programming Practices for Economists**

## **Python Installation and Execution**

### **Installation and introduction to Pixi**

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# What is pixi?

- When using programs like Stata or Matlab you typically have single version of the program installed
  - Problematic when different projects require different versions of the program
  - Worse when depending on custom extensions / libraries
- We want an independent environment for each project
  - Pixi allows you to create and manage per-project environments

# Installation

- In your terminal of choice, execute a tiny shell script found here:  
<https://pixi.sh/latest/#installation>
- Re-start your terminal
- If you have any issues, reach out on the course Zulip!

# Using pixi

```
$ cd path/to/project  
$ ls  
script.py  
pyproject.toml
```

```
# script.py  
  
print("Hello, world!")
```

```
$ pixi run python script.py  
Hello, world!
```

- There is no need to install or activate the pixi environment manually!
- The environment is automatically installed/updated when `pixi run` is called
- Any command that relies on the environment **must be** prefixed with `pixi run` :
  - `python script.py` → `pixi run python script.py`
  - `pytest` → `pixi run pytest`
  - ...