Machine Learning and Programming in Python Lecture for Master and PhD students

Chair of Data Science in Economics

Ruhr University Bochum

Summer semester 2024

Lecture 2

Outline

- How to download and install Python.
- What is Jupyter about?
- The main concepts of Python

- We use Python because is easy to learn, friendly and we have thousand of online resources in case we need help.
- The syntax is simpler than in C++, Java, JavaScript...
- We are going to start from the beginner level, to progressively increase the complexity of the module.

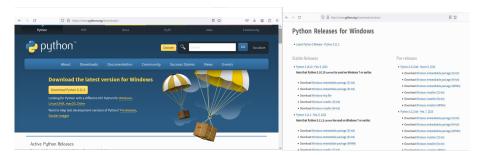
- Code quality.
 Highly readable code, making it reusable and maintainable.
- Developer Productivity.
 Coding style is considered as easy and elegant, using a correct English syntax that makes everything simpler than in other software. Also, the amount of code is smaller.
- Code Portability.
 The code can be imported by many used, with no need to change a line of code.
- Built-in and external libraries.
 This will make your life easier.

Main Python fields

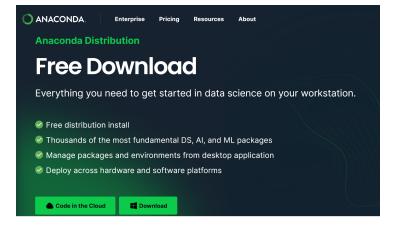
- Web application development
 Python boom is mostly attributed to web development: Tasks' simplification, backend data sets, handling online information and protocols like http, ftp, etc.
- Data Science and Machine Learning
 Machine learning and the automatisation of many economic processes
 (also business intelligence).

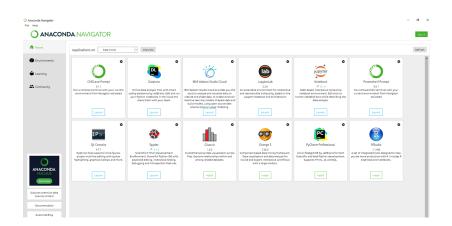
Installing Python either from python.org (https://www.python.org/downloads/) or via the platform Anaconda from anaconda.com

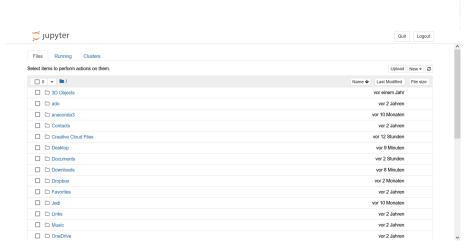
Recommendation to do it via Anaconda (see next slide)



https://www.anaconda.com/products/distribution



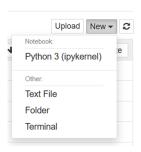




Let's run it!

- Jupyter is both a notebook and a codebook; that is, it is used both to keep track of our script and to run estimates and algorithms in a friendly Python environment.
- The Dashboard gives you access to those files and folders created under the Jupyter environment, and you can change it if you prefer so.

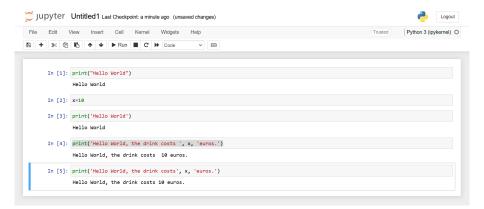
- "New", gives you access to the different possibilities provided by Jupyter: Working in a Python environment, creating a new text file, or a folder.
- "Python 3" refers to your Jupyter Notebook.
- Your file will by default be saved as ".ipynb". All the information generated, including strings, floats, lists, etc. will be saved in your notebook.



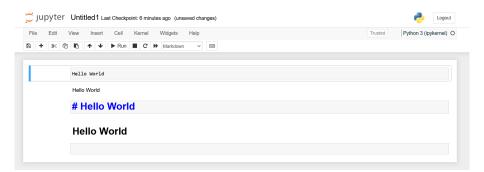
- Looks like the standard Microsoft Word environment (to make it more friendly).
- You have many options: Run your code, edit your text, view it, save it...
- Two concepts:
 - Kernel: The "engine" that is going to execute the code contained in our notebook.
 - ► Cell: What "contains" our text; to be fixed, modified, displayed, executed by Kernel...



1. Code Cell: Is the cell containing the code to be executed by our kernel. If everything is correct, the notebook is going to display the main results.



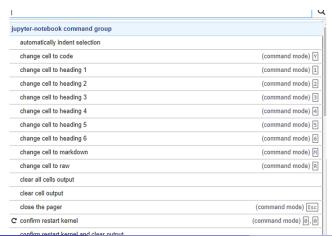
2. Markdown Cell: Contains text. Inserted just as it is, or with hashs. The output is displayed in a different way and not dependent on whether computations or logical operators are correct.



Jupyter commands/ shortcuts: p

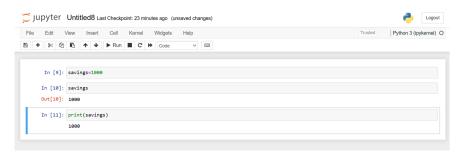
Run code: Ctrl and Enter

Print code/ Save as pdf: Ctrl and p



Variables:

Variables are what make our code and ideas feasible, in statistical and mathematical terms. We can set up the value of any variable just by "writing" it.



Data Types:

This refers to the format in which the variable has been created (string, float, etc.). In the previous example, savings was an integer.

There are many data types; floats, integers, strings, booleans, lists, tuples, sets, dicts, etc.

```
In [12]: type(savings)
Out[12]: int
In [13]: [2+3
Out[13]: 5
In [14]: "ab"+"cd"
Out[14]: 'abcd'
```