Statistics 360: Advanced R for Data Science

Lecture 11

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R and Python: References

- The reticulate website: https://rstudio.github.io/reticulate/
- Python setup: https://docs.python.org/3/using/index.html
- Python tutorial: https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/

Calling Python from R

- Use cases:
  - Tap into a growing set of tools for data science, such as scikit-learn https://scikit-learn.org/stable/ , keras https://keras.io/ , ...
  - Workflow requires substantial computations in **both** languages; e.g., fit a neural network in Python, plot results using ggplot2
- Not recommended:
  - Using R/RStudio as a development environment for Python.
  - Better to go all-in with Python and use Jupyter Notebooks, Spyder, etc. as your IDE.

Prerequisites

- Install and load the reticulate package

```
# install.packages("reticulate")
library(reticulate)
```

- Install Python
  - See the Python setup link on the references slide, or the Python distributions on the next slide
  - Warning for Mac users: Macs with the Apple M1 processor can run both M1 and x86 (Intel processor) binaries. Make sure your R and Python installations are for the same processor, or you will get errors when you try to start Python from R.
- Install the Python packages that you need.
  - More on this below.

Python packages

- Python packages are like R packages.
- Install with `pip` or `conda`.
  - So far I've only been able to find a miniconda installer to work with my M1 version of R, so I'll discuss `conda`-based installs.
- conda comes with the Python distributions anaconda and miniconda https://docs.conda.io/projects/conda/en/latest/user-guide/install
  - miniconda is smaller and faster to install, but you will need to install packages yourself
  - anaconda includes all the python packages you will need for data science but takes more disk space and probably includes stuff you will never use
- Once you have `conda` install packages from the command line with `conda install <package>`.

Python environments

- Python environments, like RStudio projects, are used to compartmentalize your work with Python.
  - A complete Python installation, including its own Python executable and packages.
  - Create from the command line with `conda create --name <env_name>`
  - Then "activate" with `conda activate <env_name>` and "de-activate" with `conda deactivate`.

Installing packages with reticulate, Part I

- See https://rstudio.github.io/reticulate/articles/python_packages.html
- We'll first install into the "base" Python environment

```
library(reticulate)
#conda_install(packages=c("pandas","scikit-learn")) # commented out to
```

Installing packages with reticulate, Part II

- Now install into another Python environment
- Note: Not currently working on my system, but it used to!

```
library(reticulate)
#conda_create("r-reticulate") # commented out to avoid re-doing every t
#conda_install("r-reticulate", c("pandas","scikit-learn")) # commented
```

Using a conda environment

- For each R session in which you want to use your conda environment:

```
library(reticulate)
use_condaenv("r-reticulate",required=TRUE)
# Can then call py_config() to see which Python version is being
```

Python embedded in RMarkdown

- Example from https://pandas.pydata.org/pandas-docs/stable/user_guide/10min.html

````
```{python} # code chunk header is ```{python} rather than ```{r}
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
df = pd.DataFrame(np.random.randn(3,4),columns=['A','B','C','D'])
df
```
````

```
##           A         B         C         D
## 0 -2.977782 -0.905511 -0.032656 -0.392788
## 1  0.507854 -2.003782  0.808583 -1.464986
## 2 -2.504178  0.949532  1.679143  0.311646
```

Importing Python packages (modules)

- You can also import Python packages into R and call their functions directly.

```
npr <- import("numpy.random")
pd <- import("pandas") # import is from reticulate
df <- pd$DataFrame(npr$randn(3L,4L),columns=c('A','B','C','D'))
df
```

```
##           A          B          C          D
## 1 -0.2916669 0.95213029 -0.3825636  0.3492898
## 2 -0.5472468 0.04402192  0.4529024  0.8428910
## 3 -0.5606163 1.49973485  0.3927085 -0.1909667
```

Notes

- Access Python functions from an imported package with `$`.
- The `randn()` function requires integer arguments – have to use `3L` and `4L` to pass integers.
  - reticulate converts R vectors of length 1 to Python scalars.
  - In general reticulate will try to convert to/from appropriate data types. See the list at https://rstudio.github.io/reticulate/index.html#type-conversions
- I used the numpy random number generator, but passed column names as an R character vector.
  - reticulate converts this to a python list.

Sourcing Python scripts

- Source with `source_python()`. By default, objects created by the Python script are made available as R objects in your workspace, and also in the hidden environment `py`.
- Pass an environment if you want to store somewhere else.

```
# source_python("lec11_1.py") # default
my_py_env <- new.env()
source_python("lec11_1.py",envir=my_py_env)
ls(my_py_env)
```

```
## [1] "df" "r"
```

```
my_py_env$df
```

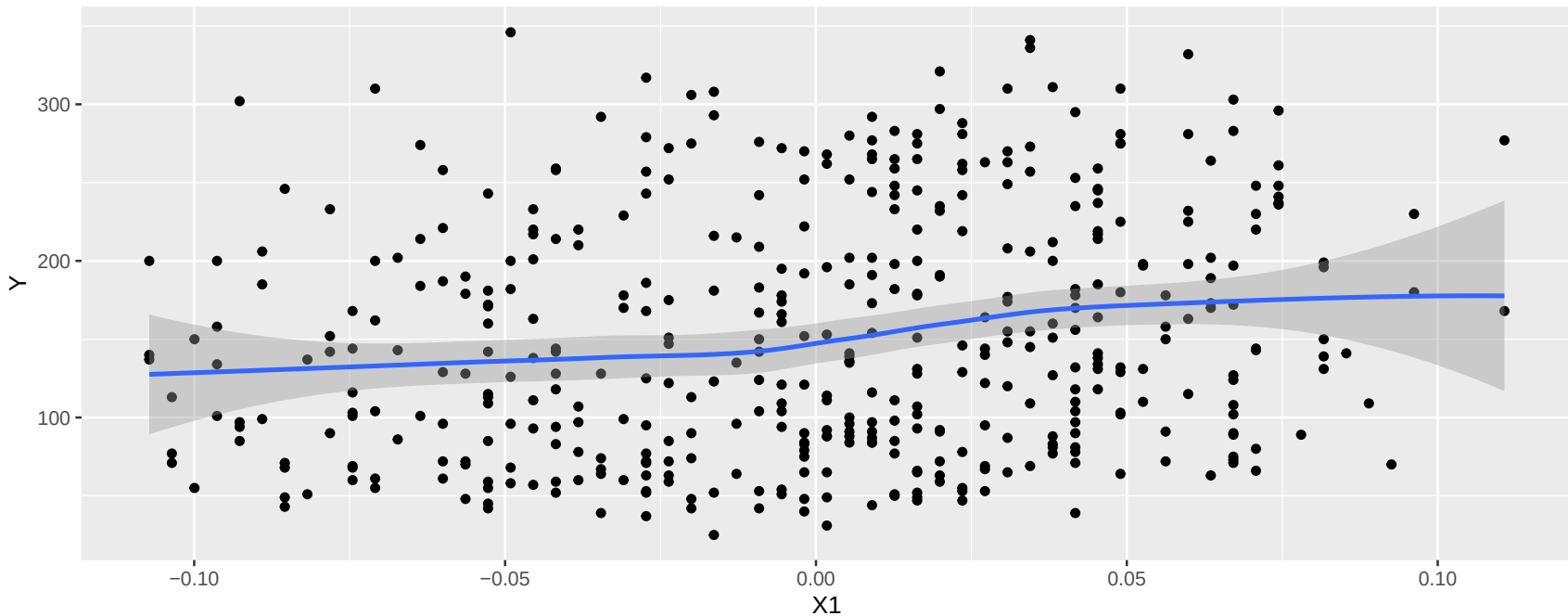
```
##           A         B          C          D
## 1  0.9379632 0.7115482 -0.5365631 -1.1482356
## 2  0.5821635 0.6016604 -0.1548677 -1.0422165
## 3 -0.0624232 1.2770924  0.5566369  0.9188376
```

Another example

```
source_python("lec11_2.py")
MSE
```

```
## [1] 2859.69
```

```
ddat <- data.frame(Y=diabetes_y,diabetes_X)
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(ddat,aes(x=X1,y=Y)) + geom_point() + geom_smooth()
```



Python REPL

- You can also start the Python interpreter and compute interactively.
  - Useful for debugging your Python scripts

```
# repl_python()
# type your Python commands
# objects will be available in R through py object
# exit to quit
```