Equibel Tutorial

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1   Installation

Equibel currently supports Mac OS X with Python 2.x. It is highly recommended that you install Equibel in a *virtual environment*. Virtual environments provide isolation between different projects, allowing you to have separate installations of Python for each project. To create a virtual environment, you must first install `virtualenv`:

```
$ sudo pip install virtualenv
```

Once `virtualenv` is installed, you can create a project directory and initialize a virtual environment in it as follows:

```
$ mkdir equibel_projects
$ cd equibel_projects
$ virtualenv venv --python=python2.7
```

The last line above creates a directory called `venv` which contains an installation of Python 2.7 that is isolated from the global system installation. A virtual environment provides you with an isolated space in which you can install specific versions of Python packages needed for a project, such that they do not interfere with different versions of the same packages installed system-wide or in other virtual environments. Note that we included the option `--python=python2.7` to ensure that Python 2.7 is used; this is necessary because Equibel is currently not compatible with Python 3.

Before you can install packages into the virtual environment, you have to *activate* it using

```
$ . venv/bin/activate
```

or

```
$ source venv/bin/activate
```

When you do this, your terminal prompt will update so that it is prepended by `(venv)`. Whenever you want to exit the virtual environment and return to using the system-wide Python installation, simply use:

```
$ deactivate
```

You can now install Equibel into the virtual environment as follows.

1. Get the source code by cloning the GitHub repository:

```
$ git clone git://github.com/asteroidhouse/equibel.git
```

2. Enter the equibel directory and run `pip`:

```
$ cd equibel
$ pip install .
```

This will install Equibel and its dependencies into `venv`. The Equibel installation consists of two main components: the `equibel` package and the `equibeli` interactive command-line interface. The `equibel` package provides an API to the system, while the `equibeli` CLI allows for real-time experimentation with the system. The easiest way to get started using Equibel is to launch the CLI.