A Gentle introduction to PyCharm

For *Computational Linguistics (2018-Fall)*

Qing Lyu (lvq15@mails.tsinghua.edu.cn)

This document provides a friendly guide to PyCharm - simply put, an environment where you can run Python scripts with many handy features.
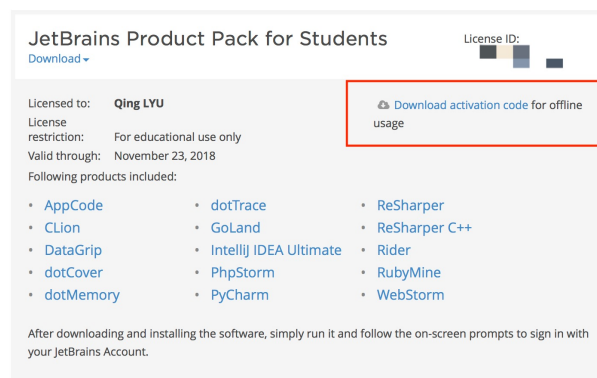
Note that if you are already experienced in Python and are comfortable working with some other environment (e.g. IDLE), you can skip this tutorial.

Before starting, please ensure that you have installed Python 3.x and NLTK following the instructions here: `https://bxjthu.github.io/CompLing/readings/1/Python_NLTK_Install.pdf`.
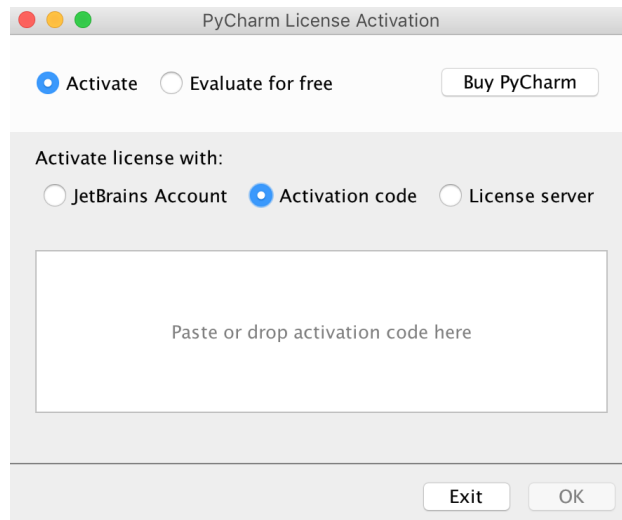
Downloading and Installing PyCharm

PyCharm comes in several editions (Community, Education, and Professional). As students from Tsinghua, we are licensed to use the Professional edition for free. Setting up is easy:

1. Visit `https://www.jetbrains.com/student/`, and click "Apply Now".

2. In the upcoming page, enter your personal information and Tsinghua email address. Once you complete, click "Apply for free products".

3. Click on the activation link in your mailbox.

4. Visit `https://account.jetbrains.com/login`, and log in with your account information.

5. Download the activation code (a TXT file).

6. Visit `https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/download/`, and download the Professional edition for your operating system.

7. Launch your PyCharm professional edition, follow the instructions in the installation wizard, and go to the ACTIVATION page:

8. Drag the activation code (TXT file) to this window, and now you have your PyCharm Professional edition!

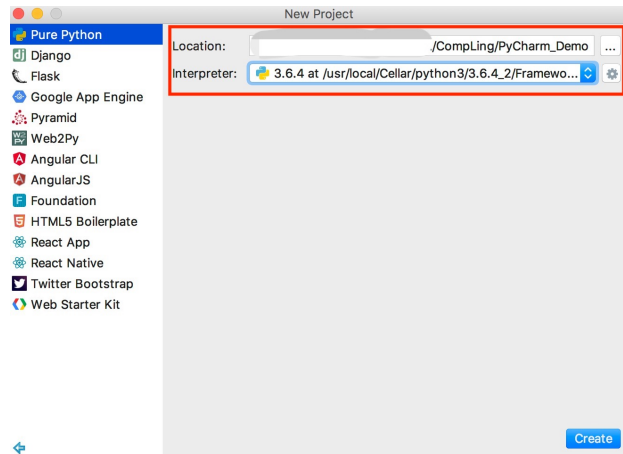# Get started with your first project

Unlike simple code editors, IDEs (like PyCharm) think in terms of "projects", i.e., everything you do in PyCharm is done within the context of a project. Let's get started by creating a simple project:

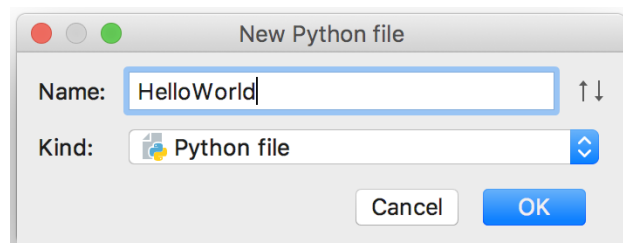1. Launch PyCharm. On the Welcome screen, click on Create New Project.

2. In the "New Project" window, specify the location where you want the project to be created (If you don't want to change location than keep it as it is but at least change the name from "untitled" to something meaningful, for example, xxxxx/CompLing/Pycharm_Demo.) Next, see if the in the "Interpreter"
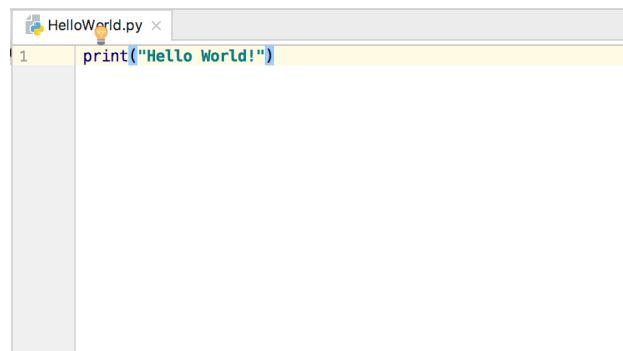
is Python3.x; if not, please select the location where you've just installed Python3.x following the previous tutorial.
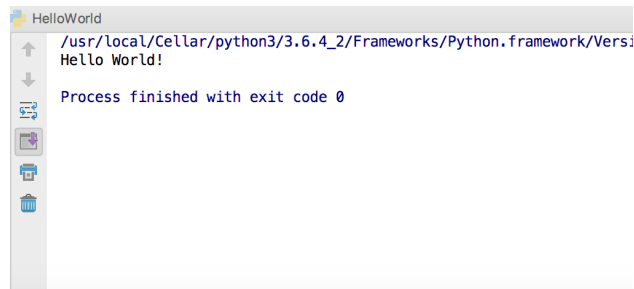

3. Click the "Create" button at the bottom, and now we have an empty project.

4. To create a script in the project, go up to the "File" menu and select "New". Next, select "Python File".

5. Type the name of the file you want (e.g. "HelloWorld") and hit OK.

6. Now, type a simple program - print ("Hello World!")

7. To run your program, go up to the "Run" menu and click "Run" (or use ctrl+shift+R as short key).

8. Now you can see the output of your program at the bottom of the screen. Congrats on finishing your first project in PyCharm!

References

This tutorial is adapted from several online resources ([1] , [2], [3]), and the PyCharm official doc . You are welcome to learn more about PyCharm by reading its doc, or watch its series of short introductory videos here (VPN needed).

We also thank previous student Yimeng Li for his notes on installing PyCharm Professional with Tsinghua student license!