# Lab0 Getting started with NP

Introduction to Human language Technology

#### **Overview**

- Al and coding
- Preparations
- Jupyter notebooks
- Get the lab materials (notebooks, data) from Github
- Create a virtual environment with the right version of Python and all required packages
- How to use a terminal
- A word on Text editors

## Should I use Al for coding? ChatGPT's answer

That depends on **how** you want to use AI for coding and what your goals are. Here's a breakdown to help you decide:

#### When AI can be very helpful for coding:

- Boilerplate and repetitive code: AI can generate standard patterns quickly (e.g., setting up APIs, writing test scaffolding, configuring frameworks).
- Learning & exploration: If you're learning a new language, framework, or algorithm, AI can give you examples and explanations.
- **Debugging assistance**: AI can point out bugs, suggest fixes, or explain error messages.
- Speeding up prototyping: You can get a working draft quickly and then refine it yourself.
- **Documentation & comments**: AI can summarize or generate documentation.

#### 1 Things to watch out for:

- Code quality: AI-generated code may work but not follow best practices, be inefficient, or be insecure.
- Understanding: Relying too much on AI without understanding the code can slow your growth as a programmer.
- **Privacy/security**: Don't paste sensitive or proprietary code into AI tools unless you're sure it's safe.
- Maintenance: If you don't fully understand the generated code, maintaining it later can be painful.

#### Best way to use AI in coding:

Think of AI as a coding assistant rather than a replacement.

- Use it to **speed up** your work, but always **review and understand** the output.
- Treat it like **pair programming** with someone who's fast but not always careful.
- The stronger your own coding skills, the more effectively you'll use AI.

To you want to use AI mainly to learn coding faster, or to be more productive in your existing projects? That changes the advice I'd give you.

## Should I use Al for coding? My answer

- Yes, it is a great tool to get started
- But you need to train your brain to think about problems:
  - coding is like making a puzzle (can be fun)
  - coding is like structuring your thoughts
  - writing is like structuring your thoughts and explaining it to yourself and others
- And you cannot trust it, so you need to correct and direct it
  - debugging Al code may take more time than writing your own code
- What is my added value in a society run by AI?
- Always, always, always cite and give credentials to AI for the coding it did: —>
   code plagiarism

### **Preparations**

#### Hardware

- Bring your own laptop (Windows, Mac or Linux are all fine) with rights to install software and data.
- At least 16GB of memory and 500GB of disk capacity.
- Linux or MacBooks because these are most compatible with the environment of the staff and other researchers in the field. As a Linux system, Ubuntu is recommended, check if your laptop supports it. You can find lists of compatible laptops online (e.g. here: <a href="https://ubuntu.com/certified/laptops">https://ubuntu.com/certified/laptops</a>)
- Windows works for most things but it is a little bit more difficult.

#### Python

- If you follow(ed) the Python for Text Analysis course parallel to this course, you will have the basic skills to attend.
- Otherwise, install Anaconda on your local machine which also installs Python. We work with Python 3.10 or 3.11. You can follow the instructions to install anaconda given here:
  - https://www.anaconda.com/download
- The installer will also install a graphical interface with various tools among which Jupyter notebooks and Jupyter lab. We will not use this interface but work from a Terminal or Command line.

### Jupyter notebooks

#### https://jupyter.org/

- Easy way of coding and documenting what you do and see through a web browser interface:
  - run your python commands through (small) cells of code, step by step
  - visualise output results easily, e.g. using graphs, tables
- Good for trying out and teaching,
- and, you can use your notebooks with some smal adaptations in Google's Colab and Kaggle environments to run it on their powerful hardware with GPUs
- Not good for bigger projects and complex code: for that you should use advanced IDEs (Integrated Development Environment)
  - Visual studio
  - Pycharm
  - etc...

### Using Jupyter notebooks

- Cells in a notebook contain code or text (Markdown). If you run a cell, it will either run the code or render the text from the Markdown.
- There are five ways to run a cell:
  - Click the 'play' button next to the 'stop' and 'refresh' button in the toolbar.
  - Alt + Enter runs the current cell and creates a new cell.
  - Ctrl + Enter runs the current cell without creating a new cell.
  - Shift + Enter runs the current cell and moves to the next one.
  - Use the menu and select Kernel -> Restart Kernal and Run All Cells
- The instructions are written in Markdown:
- https://github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/wiki/Markdown-Cheatsheet
- https://www.dataquest.io/blog/jupyter-notebook-tutorial/

## Getting the Lab notebooks

Get the download link

**₽** +• **®**•

umar Language Technology

Notebooks for Lab sessions,

Master Students

No releases nublished

11 cays ago

7 days ago

Check for updates

https://github.com/cltl/ma-hlt-labs

- Git installed:
  - Clone with ssh:
  - > git clone git@github.com:cltl/ma-hlt-labs.git
- No local Git installed:
  - Download ZIP file
  - Unpack anywhere



/Users/piek/Downloads/ma-hlt-labs/
 ma-hlt-labs/

Search or jump to.

pickvosser more explanations of the code -

Actions

cleaned up for students

uncates to emotion detection BCW

□ cltl / ma-hlt-labs

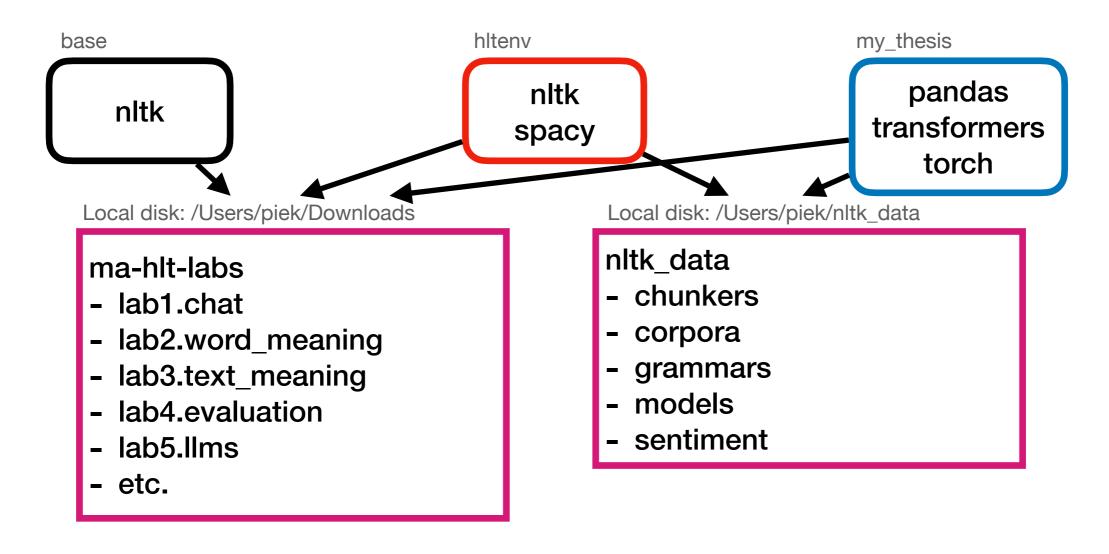
READNE.md

- lab1.chat
- lab2.word\_meaning
- lab3.machine\_learning
- Lab4.evaluation

- lab1.chat
  - lab2.word\_meaning
  - lab3.machine learning
  - Lab4.evaluation

## Virtual environments Installing software within a save silo

- When installing many packages with even more dependencies, conflicts may arise between versions.
- It is wise to create a new virtual environment for each project/course and install and run your code within it.
- https://docs.python.org/3/library/venv.html
- https://packaging.python.org/en/latest/guides/installing-using-pip-and-virtual-environments/



## Creating a virtual environment Install Python 3.11 and install all required packages

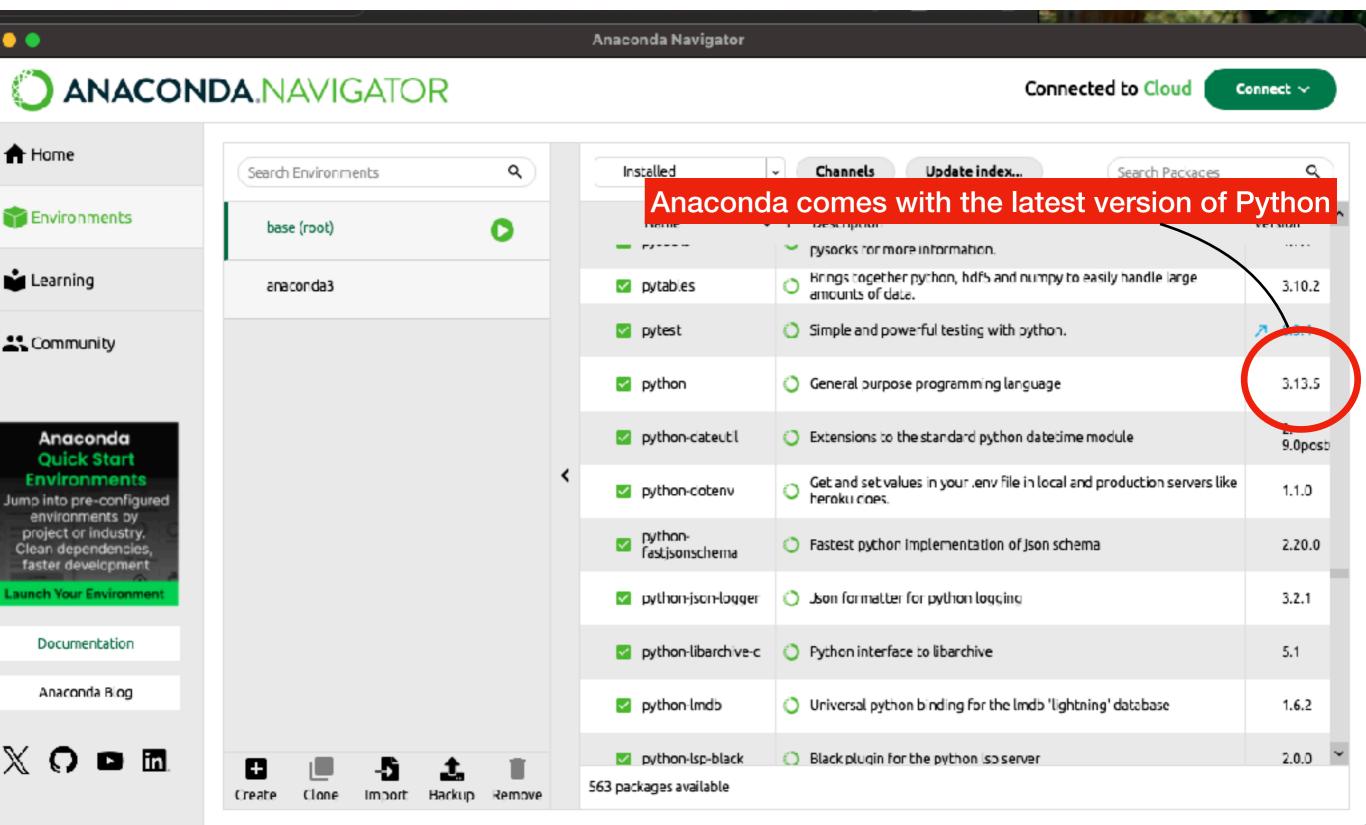
- We will create a virtual environment using the Anaconda navigator as it works the same for Windows, Mac and Linux
- Select the Environments tab in the left panel of the Navigator. It shows two environments: base and anaconda3, which both use the latest version of Python (e.g. 3.13)
- We create a new environment called "hltenv" that uses Python 3.11 and in which we will install all packages needed for this course.
- Push the Create [+] button at the bottom of the screen and fill in the name "hltenv" and select Python version 3.11.13
- Push Create again and wait till all software is installed.
- Open a terminal from the "hltlenv" following the play button:



- A terminal should open with the following prefix: (htlenv)>
- Install all the packages that are in the "requirements.txt" file of ma-hltl-labs
- Next slides shows the screen dumps for the above steps.

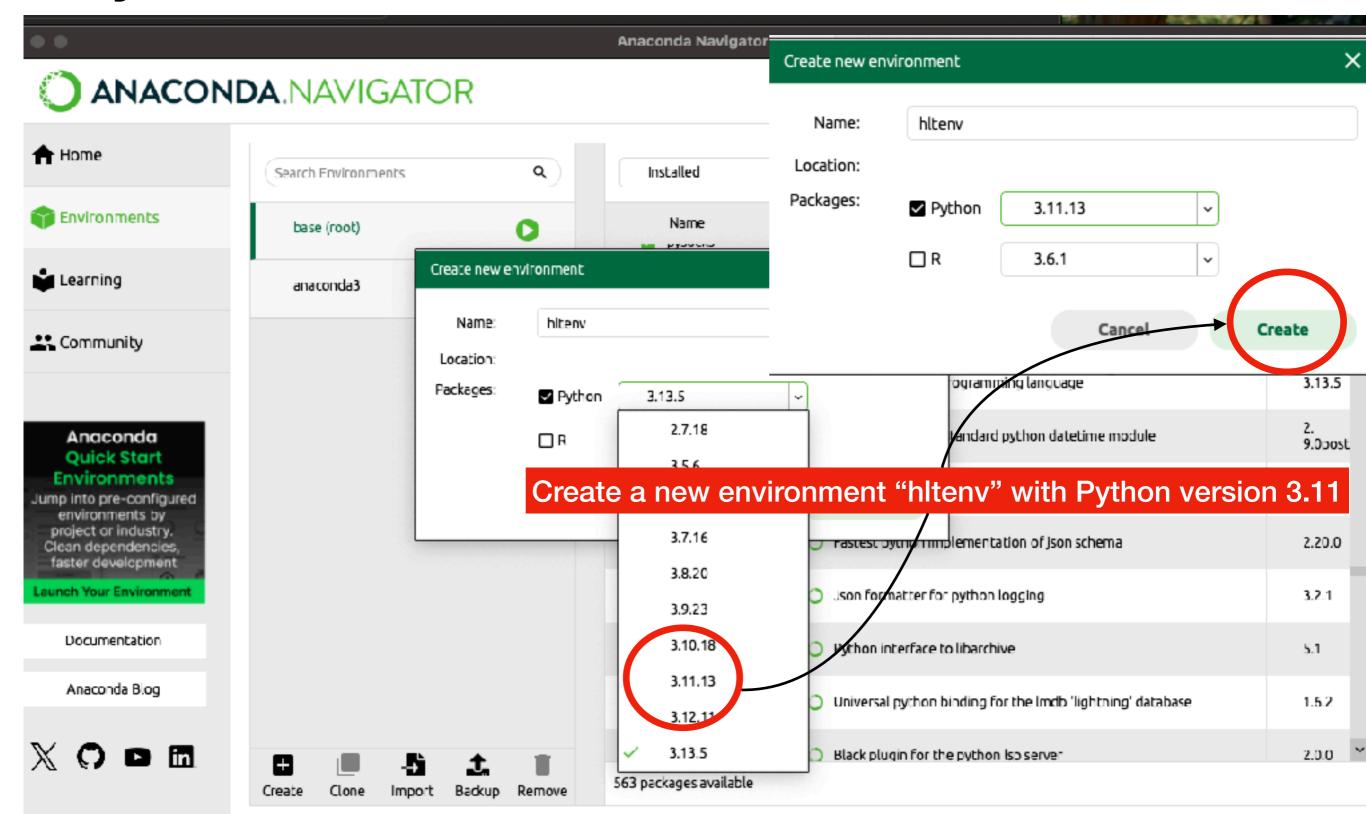
## Creating a virtual environment

Python version in anaconda, base has the latest version of Python

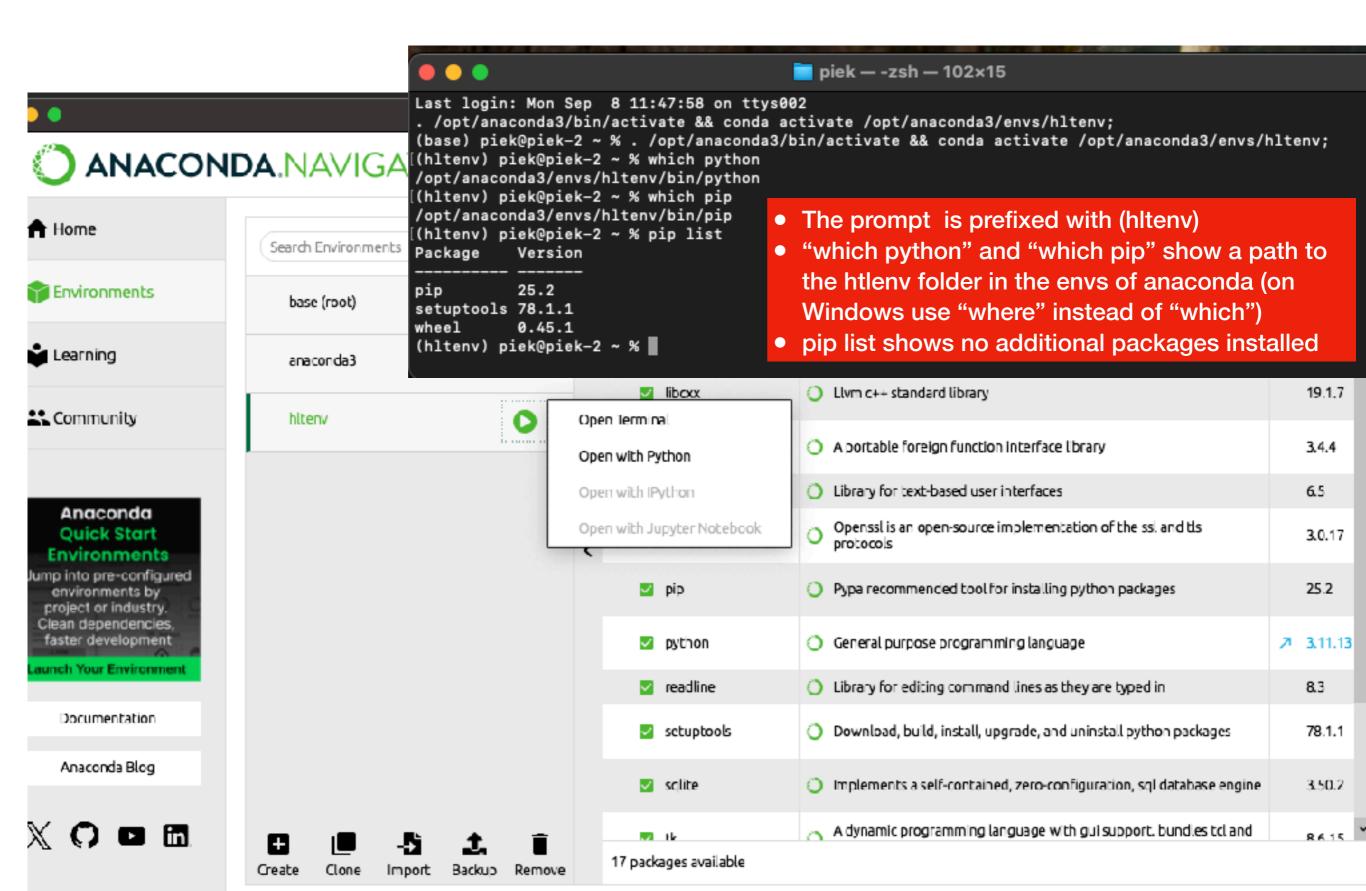


### Creating a virtual environment

Python version in anaconda



#### Creating a virtual environment Python 3.11



## Installing packages in "htlenv"

ma-hlt-labs — -zsh –

Version

0.7.0

4.10.0

0.7.11

2.0.10

3.4.3

8.2.1

0.1.5

1.3.3

0.12.1

2.0.11

1.9.0

2025.8.3

(hltenv) piek@piek-2 ma-hlt-labs % pip list

Package

anyio

catalogue

confection

contourpy

certifi

click

cycler

distro

cymem

blis

annotated-types

charset-normalizer

- Navigate to the location where you downloaded and unpacked "ma-htl-labs" and which has the file "requirements.txt"
- The "requirements.txt" has a list of packages with specific versions that you need to install for the course
- Upgrade pip if necessary:
  - (hltenv)>python -m pip install —upgrade pip
- Install all packages from requirements.txt:

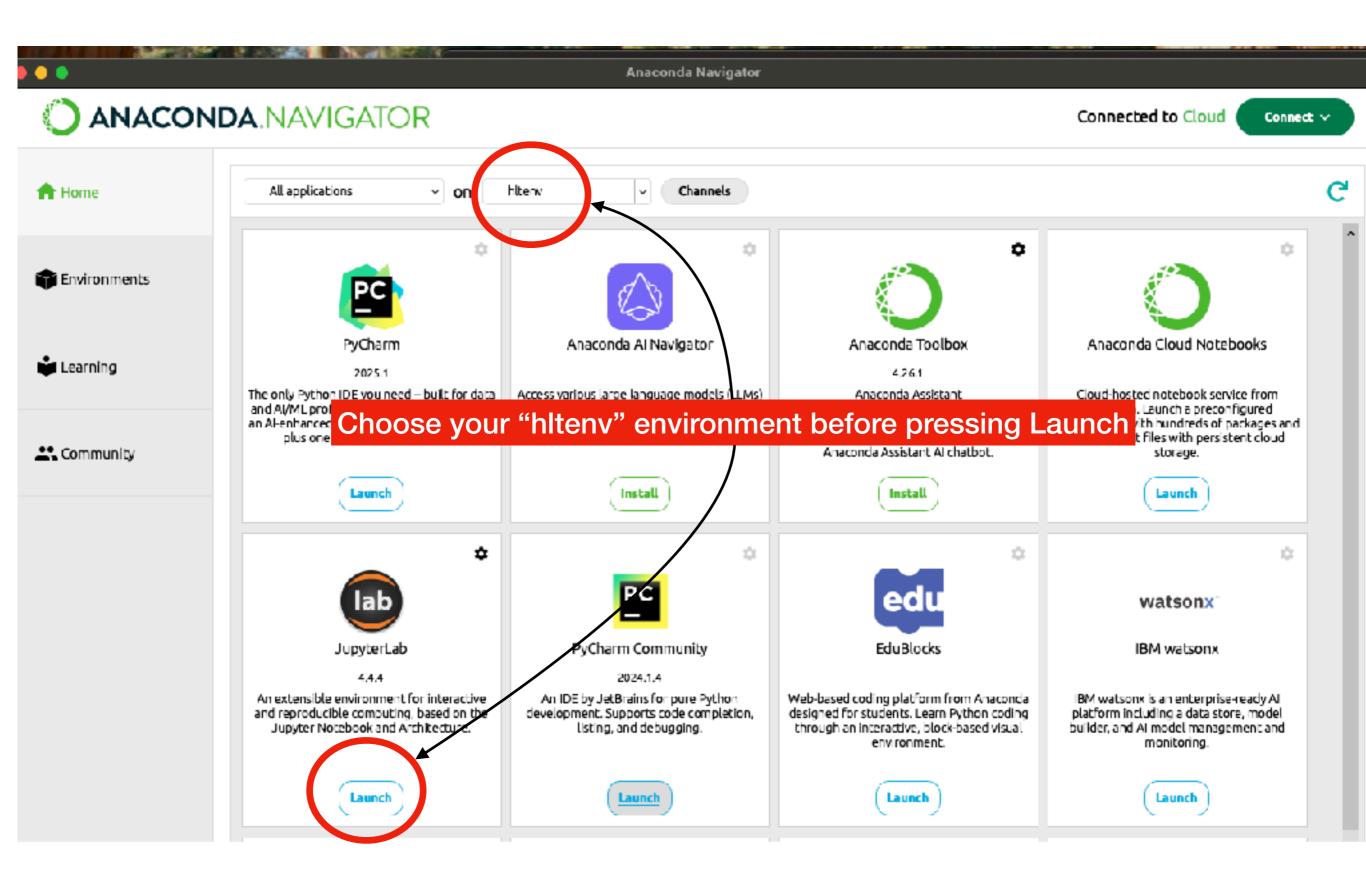
```
filelock
                                                                                                                               3.19.1
                                                                                                      fonttools
                                                                                                                               4.59.2
                                                                                                      fsspec
                                                                                                                               2025.9.0
            (hltenv)>pip install -r requirements.txt
                                                                                                      gensim
                                                                                                                               4.3.3
                                                                                                      greenlet
                                                                                                                               3.2.4
                                                                                                      h11
                                                                                                                               0.16.0
                                                                                                                               1.1.9
                                              ma-hlt-labs — -zsh — 123×18
                                                                                                                               1.0.9
                                                                                    >pip list now shows a
                                                                                                                               0.28.1
total 2176
                                                                                                                               0.34.4
                                                                                     long list of installed
                    staff 1105430 Sep 8 11:53 HLT-getting-started.pdf
                                                                                                                               3.10
                    etaff
                              2786 Sep 8 11:53 README.md
                                                                                                                               3.1.6
                                                                                     packages
            9 piek
                   staff
                              288 Sep 8 11:53 data-formats
drwxr-xr-x
                                                                                                                               0.10.0
                   staff
                              192 Sep 8 11:53 lab0.getting_started
drwxr-xr-x
            6 piek
                                                                                                      joblib
                                                                                                                               1.5.2
drwxr-xr-x
            8 piek staff
                              256 Sep 8 11:54 lab1.chat
                                                                                                      jsonpatch
                                                                                                                               1.33
drwxr-xr-x 12 piek staff
                              384 Sep 8 11:54 lab2.word_meaning
                                                                                                      jsonpointer
                                                                                                                               3.0.0
                   staff
                              352 Sep 8 11:53 lab3.text_meaning
drwxr-xr-x 11 piek
                                                                                                                               1.4.9
                                                                                                      kiwisolver
drwxr-xr-x 10 piek
                              320 Sep 8 11:53 lab4.annotation_and_evaluation
                                                                                                      langchain
                                                                                                                               0.3.21
drwxr-xr-x 11 piek
                    staff
                              352 Sep 8 11:53 lab5.large_language_models
                                                                                                                               0.3.75
                                                                                                      langchain-core
                    staff
                              160 Sep 8 11:53 lab6.generative_llms
drwxr-xr-x
            5 piek
                                                                                                                               0.2.1
                              160 Sep 8 11:53 lab7.final_assignment
                                                                                                      langchain-ollama
                              377 Sep 8 11:53 requirements.txt
                                                                                                      langchain-text-splitters 0.3.11
            1 piek
                   staff
(hlteny)    piek@piek-2 ma-hlt-labs % python -m pip install --upgrade pip
                                                                                                      langsmith
                                                                                                                               0.3.45
                                                                                                      MarkupSafe
                                                                                                                               3.0.2
Requirement already satisfied: pip in /opt/anaconda3/envs/hltenv/lib/python3.11/site-packages (25.2)
                                                                                                      matplotlib
                                                                                                                               3.10.3
(hlteny) piek@piek-2 ma-hlt-labs % pip install -r requirements.txt▮
                                                                                                      mpmath
                                                                                                                               1.3.0
                                                                                                      murmurhash
                                                                                                                               1.0.13
```

## Adding "hltenv" to Jupyter lab

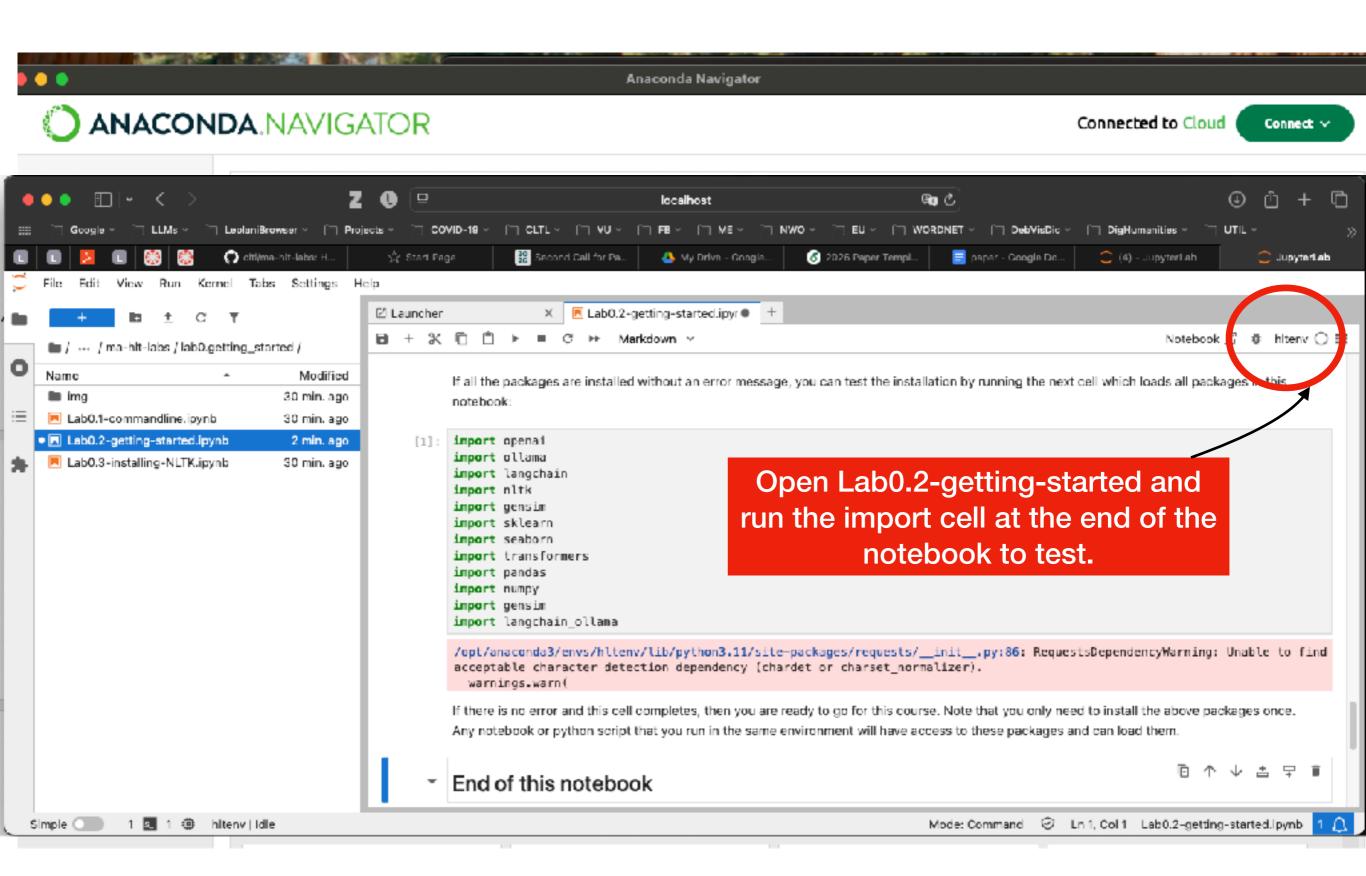
- To be sure that "hltenv" is available to Jupyter lab we need to add it in a terminal in the "hltenv" environment:
  - (hltlenv)>python -m ipykernel install --user --name=hltenv
  - make sure the command has double dashes before user and name: "- -"
  - make sure the name is the same as the name of your environment
- Check the available kernels in Jupyter, which should include "hltenv":
  - (hltenv)>jupyter kernelspec list
- Remove any unwanted kernels:
  - (hltenv)>jupyter kernelspec uninstall <name unwanted env>
- Launch Jupyter lab from the Navigator with the right environment active: "hltenv" (see next page)

```
piek — -zsh — 121×24
Last login: Tue Sep 9 13:09:25 on ttys000
. /opt/anaconda3/bin/activate && conda activate /opt/anaconda3/envs/hltenv;
(base) piek@feweb58838 ~ % . /opt/anaconda3/bin/activate && conda activate /opt/anaconda3/envs/hltenv;
(hlteny) piek@feweb58038 ~ % jupyter kernelspec list
Available kernels:
  python3
             /opt/anaconda3/envs/hltenv/share/jupyter/kernels/python3
  friday
             /Users/piek/Library/Jupyter/kernels/friday
             /Users/piek/Library/Jupyter/kernels/hltenv
 hltenv
             /Users/piek/Library/Jupyter/kernels/venv
(hltenv) piek@feweb58038 ~ % jupyter kernelspec uninstall friday
Kernel specs to remove:
 friday
                        /Users/piek/Library/Jupyter/kernels/friday
Remove 1 kernel specs [y/N]: y
Removed /Users/piek/Library/Jupyter/kernels/friday
(hltenv) piek@feweb58038 ~ % jupyter kernelspec list
Available kernels:
             /opt/anaconda3/envs/hltenv/share/jupyter/kernels/python3
  hltenv
             /Users/piek/Library/Jupyter/kernels/hlteny
             /Users/piek/Library/Jupyter/kernels/venv
(hltenv) piek@feweb58038 ~ % ■
```

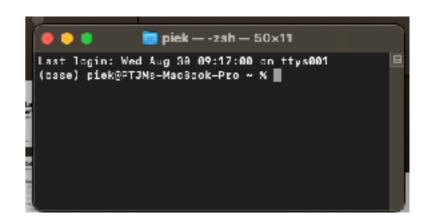
#### Launching jupyter lab in your "hltlenv" environment



#### Launching jupyter lab in your "hltlenv" environment



#### **The Terminal**



- Terminal or Command line
  - The Terminal or Command line lets you type in basic commands that will be carried out by the computer.
  - Working with a terminal gives you more control over your code, is more efficient, and is the only way to run code on remote servers that do not come with a graphical interface.
  - We will use the terminal that can be launched from the Anaconda environment to make sure it uses the right environment and version of Python

## Using a terminal

- A terminal gives you access to a so-called Unix/Linux \*shell\*.
  - Working with shell commands is extremely fast and efficient.
  - A taste of the power of shell commands "Unix for Poets" by Kenneth Church:
    - https://www.cs.upc.edu/~padro/Unixforpoets.pdf
    - How to count words, sort wordlists, make n-grams and make concordances for large amounts of text just using shell commands
- Basic commands for most of the classes (some will not work for Windows, for some there is a Windows alternative):
  - pwd: gives the path to the current directory
  - Is (Mac/Linux), dir (Windows): gives a list of what is stored in the current directory
  - cd: change directory, either going up to the parent or going in a subdirectory
  - **mkdir**: create a new directory in the current directory
  - touch: create a new empty file in the current directory
  - echo & >: return any text between quotes which can be redirected as a stream, e.g. echo "hello world" > file.txt
  - cat: (type Windows): print the content of a file to the screen
  - mv: move a file or rename a file
  - rmdir: remove a subfolder when empty
  - rm: permanently remove files and folders

## Using a terminal pwd, ls, dir

- When you open a terminal or command line box, you will be somewhere on your hard disk.
- You will see a prompt (% or >) after which you can type a command to the computer.
- Where are you on your disk?
  - In your terminal, type "pwd" directly after the prompt (%) and hit enter. My computer echos "/Users/ piek" which is my home directory
- What is in my home dir?
  - Type "Is" (Mac/Linux) or "dir" (Windows) and you get a listing of files and subdirectories in the directory that you are now
  - My home directory has familiar subdirectories such as "Desktop", "Documents" and "Downloads" and lots of other stuff

```
piek — -zsh — 80×8

Last login: Fri Jul 21 09:23:20 on ttys005
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ %
```

```
piek — -zsh — 80×8

Last login: Fri Jul 21 09:23:20 on ttys005
[(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ % pwd
/Users/piek
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ %
```

```
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ % ls
2205.01068.pdf
                                          Help
                                                                                     Rele
9781108485760book.pdf
                                          Library
                                                                                     Reso
AndroidStudioProjects
                                          Movies
                                                                                     Resu
                                          Music
Applications
                                                                                     Tool
                                          OneDrive - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam VU
Biblio
CLTL
                                          Pictures
CV
                                          Piek_iTunes
                                                                                     Zote
Code
                                          Presentaties
                                                                                     anac
Committees
                                          Prive
                                                                                     cert
Conferences
                                          Projects
                                                                                     dala
Desktop
                                          Public
                                                                                     exam
Documents
                                          PycharmProjects
                                                                                     gens
Downloads
                                          REVIEWS
                                                                                     gett
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ % 📕
```

## Using a terminal

#### cd

- The "cd" command stands for change directory and expects the name of a subdirectory
- Try any subdirectory that is listed, here we move into the "Downloads" subdirectory "cd Downloads":
  - TIP: type "cd Downl" and press the TAB key. You
    will see that it is autocompleted to "cd Downloads".
    This comes in handy when you have to type long
    names or pathes.
- Before the prompt "%", we now see "Downloads" appear. Let's use "pwd" again to check the path.
  - "/Users/piek/Downloads" so we went down into a subdirectory from my home dir.
- Using the command "Is" we can see what is in Downloads.
  - We see here folder with the name "old" and the folder "ma-hlt-labs-master" with the lab sessions that we downloaded from Github.
  - We can use "cd" again to enter it. Type "cd ma-hlt" and use the TAB key to complete.
- We use "Is" to get a listing. The option "-I" also make the terminal show details such as creation date/time, size and ownership. The list shows the different subfolders for the lab sessions of this course. Use "pwd" to see the full path.
- So far we went down but you also want to go up to a parent directory or grandparent. For this we use "cd ..", where the double periods stand for one-level up.
  - Using "cd ..", we go back up to "Downloads", again to "piek", next to "Users" and finally to "/" which is the top root of the disk (different on Windows).
  - After going up, we go down again to "/Users/piek", where we started.

```
PycharmProjects
 [(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ % cd Downloads
 [(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro Downloads % pwd
o /Users/piek/Downloads
 [(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro Downloads % ls
ma-hlt-labs-master
 [(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro Downloads % cd ma-hlt-labs-master
o[(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ma-hlt-labs-master % ls -l
  total 8
  -rw-r--r-@ 1 piek staff 2520 Jul 20 11:02 README.md
  drwxr-xr-x@ 9 piek staff
                              288 Jul 20 11:02 data-formats
  drwxr-xr-x@ 10 piek staff
                              320 Jul 20 11:02 lab1.toolkits
  drwxr-xr-x@ 18 piek staff 576 Jul 20 11:02 lab2.word_meaning
  drwxr-xr-x@ 16 piek staff
                              512 Jul 20 11:02 lab3.machine_learning
  drwxr-xr-x@ 9 piek staff
                              288 Jul 20 11:02 lab4.contextualized-models
  drwxr-xr-x@ 15 piek staff 480 Jul 20 11:02 lab5.final_assignment
 (base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ma-hlt-labs-master % pwd
  /Users/piek/Downloads/ma-hlt-labs-master
  (base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ma-hlt-labs-master %
```

```
drwxr-xr-x@ 15 plek statt 480 Jul 20 11:02 lab5.final_assignment
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ma-hlt-labs-master % pwd
/Users/piek/Downloads/ma-hlt-labs-master
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ma-hlt-labs-master % cd ...
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro Downloads % pwd
/Users/piek/Downloads
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro Downloads % cd ...
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ % pwd
/Users/piek
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ % cd ...
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro /Users % pwd
/Users
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro /Users % cd ...
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro / % pwd
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro / % cd Users
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro /Users % cd piek
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ % pwd
/Users/piek
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ %
```

## Using a terminal mkdir, touch, echo, cat. mv

- In addition to navigating, you can also create directories and files.
- · mkdir makes directories:
  - In the terminal screen dump, we navigated back to Downloads and used "mkdir test" to make a new directory.
  - Using "cd" we can enter it and get a listing, which shows it is empty: "total 0".
- touch makes files:
  - We can use "touch" (Mac/Linux) to make a new file inside the "test" folder.
  - When we get a listing for "test", we now see the file but it is 0 kb in size (empty).
- cat (type Windows) shows the content
  - The "cat" command (type on Windows) prints the content which is empty.
  - We use the "echo" command to return a text "here is a text" which we next redirect using ">" as a stream into the empty file.
  - We use "cat empty\_file.txt" again to print its content. It is not longer empty as is also shown when we get a listing of the "test" directory: 13 kb.
- mv moves or renames a file:
  - The file is no longer empty so let's rename it.
  - For this, we use the "mv" command (Mac/Linux), which can be used for moving files as well as renaming if the target directory is the same but the filename is different. Try "mv empty\_file.txt stuffed\_file.txt" and get a new listing.

```
test — -zsh — 80×30
 (base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ % pwd
 /Users/piek
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro ~ % cd Downloads
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro Downloads % ls -l
 total 0
 drwxr-xr-x@ 10 piek staff 320 Jul 20 11:02 ma-hlt-labs-master
 drwxr-xr-x 238 piek staff 7616 Jul 21 09:46 old
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro Downloads % mkdir test
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro Downloads % ls -l
 total 0
 drwxr-xr-x@ 10 piek staff
                             320 Jul 20 11:02 ma-hlt-labs-master
drwxr-xr-x 238 piek staff 7616 Jul 21 09:46 old
              2 piek staff
                              64 Jul 21 10:09 test
 (base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro Downloads % cd test
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test % pwd
 /Users/piek/Downloads/test
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test % ls -l
 total 0
 (base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test % touch empty_file.txt
((base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test % ls -l
total 0
 -rw-r--r-- 1 piek staff 0 Jul 21 10:12 empty_file.txt
 (base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test % cat empty_file.txt
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test % echo "here is text" > empty_file.txt
 (base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test % cat empty_file.txt
here is text
(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test % ls -1
total 8
 -rw-r--r-- 1 piek staff 13 Jul 21 10:13 empty_file.txt
 (base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test %
-rw-r--r-- 1 piek staff 13 Jul 21 10:13 empty_file.txt
```

(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test % mv empty\_file.txt stuffed\_file.txt

-rw-r--r-- 1 piek staff 13 Jul 21 10:13 stuffed\_file.txt

(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test % ls -l

(base) piek@PTJMs-MacBook-Pro test %

## Using a terminal

#### rmdir, rm

- We created a "test" folder but now we want to clean up the mess.
- Removing by command line is efficient but also risky because there is no Trash to recover from.
  - "rmdir" removes a directory but only works when it is empty
  - "rm" removes files but with the option "-r" for recursively it also remove any subdirectory while emptying it first (everything from that point on is gone).
- We first try to remove the directory "test". We navigate up to Downloads and type "rmdir test":
  - We get the message: rmdir: test: Directory not empty, so this failed
- To remove it, we first need to empty it, so we navigate back in and use "rm stuffed\_file.txt" to get rid of the file.
- Now we can go back up and use "rmdir test" from Downloads. The listing shows that it worked.
- We could have been more efficient by using "rm -r test" from Downloads, which would remove the content of "test" (both files and any subdirectories) and "test" itself.
  - However, this is very risky. Before doing this, check the content carefully using a listing, also check any subdirectories.
  - Doing this from the root (the top directory of your disk), will empty the full disk permanently

#### **Text editors**

#### What is in a text file?

- We will work with text that is stored in files.
- Typically, we do NOT use Word, HTML or PDF as these contain a lot more than
  just the text or they are in binary format.
- Our code needs the pure text as input to work.
- For inspecting the text, use a "plain" text editor (not Word):
  - Windows Notepad++: <a href="https://notepad-plus-plus.org/">https://notepad-plus-plus.org/</a>
  - Mac/Linux:
    - Atom: <a href="https://github.com/atom/atom/releases/tag/v1.60.0">https://github.com/atom/atom/releases/tag/v1.60.0</a>
  - Mac:
    - Bbedit: <a href="https://www.barebones.com/products/bbedit/">https://www.barebones.com/products/bbedit/</a>
- You can peek into a file without opening it from the command line, using the "cat" command (Linux, Mac) or "type" (Windows) followed by the file name.