Introduction to Python

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Introduction to Python

– What is Python?

- Python is a versatile, high-level programming language.
- Used in web development, data analysis, machine learning, automation, and more.

– Why Python?

- Easy to learn and read.
- Extensive community and resources.
- Powerful libraries for various fields: science, art, business, and more.

Value-prop for STEM

- Data Science & Machine Learning:

- Libraries: NumPy, Pandas, TensorFlow, SciPy.
- Used for data manipulation, statistical analysis, and building models.

Engineering & Simulations:

Used in simulations, optimization, and algorithmic computations.

Value-prop for Humanities?

Yes!

- Text Analysis & Digital Humanities:
 - Libraries: NLTK, spaCy for natural language processing.
 - Analyze large amounts of text for sentiment, themes, and word frequencies.

- Creative Arts & Media:

- Python is used in image processing, media production, and art installations.
- Libraries like PIL (Pillow) and Pygame.

Basic Python Syntax (Quick Overview)

Variables & Types:

```
x = 10  # Integer
name = "Alice"  # String
is_student = True  # Boolean
```

- Functions:

```
def greet():
    print("Hello, world!")
```

– Loops & Conditionals:

```
for i in range(5):
    if i % 2 == 0:
        print(i, "is even")
```

Installing Python

- Step 1: Download Python:

- Go to python.org.
- Click "Downloads" and select your operating system (Windows, macOS, Linux).

- Step 2: Install Python:

- Follow installation instructions on screen.
- Ensure you check the box to "Add Python to PATH."
- Also be sure to check the box to install pip, which is how you download other useful Python tools!

Using Python via JupyterLab

- Step 1: Install JupyterLab:
 - Install with pip install jupyterlab in your terminal.
- Step 2: Using JupyterLab:
 - Start a notebook by typing jupyter lab in your terminal.