Tutorial on Python Programming for Computational Imaging

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IMA Workshop on Computational Imaging 2019

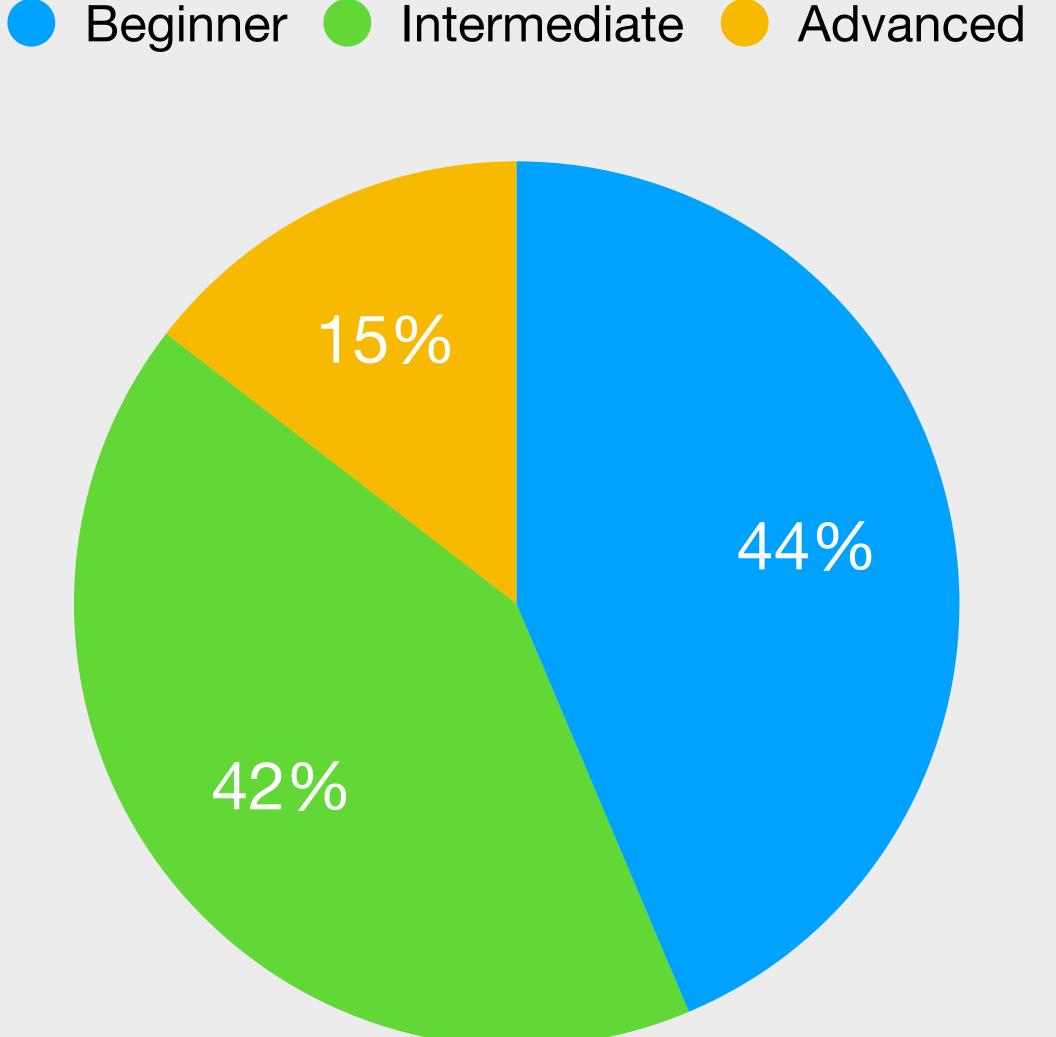
My Experience with Python

- Work on MRI reconstruction
- Many years: Matlab for prototyping, C for deploying
- Introduced to scientific Python while TAing
 - Blown away by its flexibility and simplicity
- Now: Python for prototyping and deploying



Outline

- Overview of scientific Python (slides)
- Tutorial (notebooks)
 - Basics
 - Fourier compressed sensing



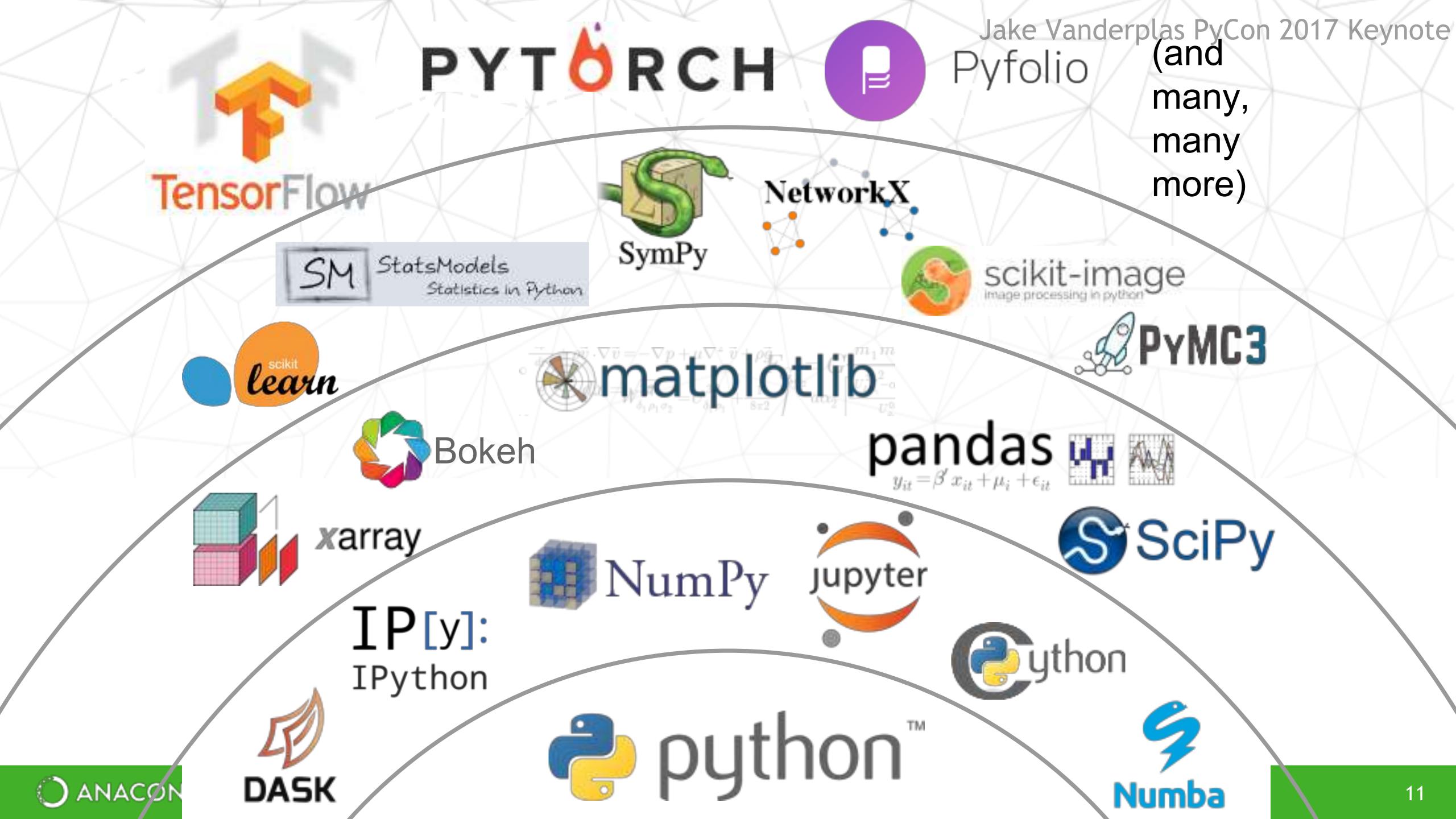
Python

- Interpreted, high-level, general-purpose language
- Started in December 1989 by Guido Van Rossum
 - "A hobby programming project during Christmas"
 - Name from Monty Python
- Design philosophy: simplicity, readability, practicality... ("Zen of Python.")



Scientific Python Packages

- NumPy (2006):
 - An efficient multidimensional array object,
 - Fast mathematical operations over arrays
 - Linear Algebra, Fourier Transforms, Random Number Generation
- Scipy (2001): high-level numerical routines. Optimization, interpolation, filters...
- Matplotlib (2003): 2-D visualization, "publication-ready" plots
- IPython (2001): an advanced Python console for interactive computing
- Jupyter notebook (2011): web-based interactive comp. for Julia, Python and R



Python's Strengths (IMO)

- Batteries included rich libraries
- Universal a language used for many different problems
- Free and open source
- Easy to learn simple syntax
- Efficient code quick development times and quick execution times

Python's Weaknesses (IMO)

- Not domain specific, verbose commands: A.conj().T instead of A'
- No simple debuggers like Matlab's
- No easy solution for shared-memory parallelism
 - Partly due to design (Global Interpreter Lock)

Tutorial

- Basics using NumPy and Matplotlib
- Fourier compressed sensing

https://github.com/frankong/ima2019_python_tutorial

