

Applied Machine Learning

Chapter 1- Introduction to Python



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What is Python?

- High-level Interpreted programming language
- Created in 1991 by Guido van Rossum
- Supports
 - Object-oriented programming
- Dynamic typing
- Multipurpose
 - Backend web apps
 - Desktop apps
 - Games
 - Task automation
 - Machine learning and Data science
 - ...

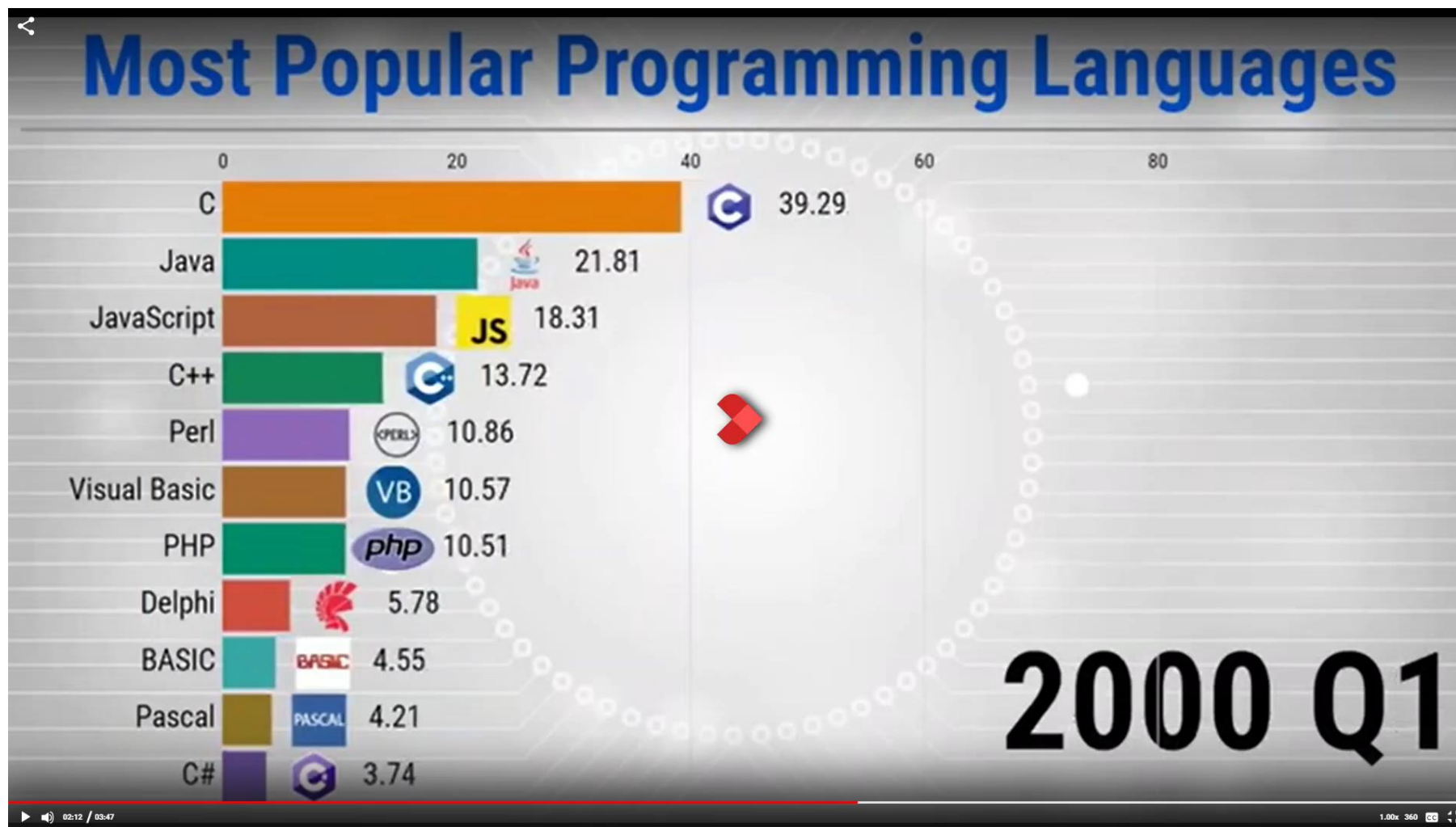


“I was looking for a hobby programming project to keep me occupied during a slow work week around Christmas. I used my home computer to write an interpreter for a new scripting language, which would become known as Python.”

Guido van Rossum



Why Python?



...Why Python?

- Well-connected and supportive community.
- Efficient language
 - Do more in fewer lines of code
 - Write clean code (because of Python's syntax)
 - Easy to read, debug, and extend programs
 - Like natural human-language
- Easy to learn yet powerful
- Comes with a large library of useful modules
 - Motto of the Python programming language: Batteries Included
- Is used heavily in scientific fields for **academic** research and applied work.

```
print("Hello world.")
```

```
public class HelloWorld {  
    public static void main (String[] args) {  
        System.out.println("Hello world");  
    }  
}
```

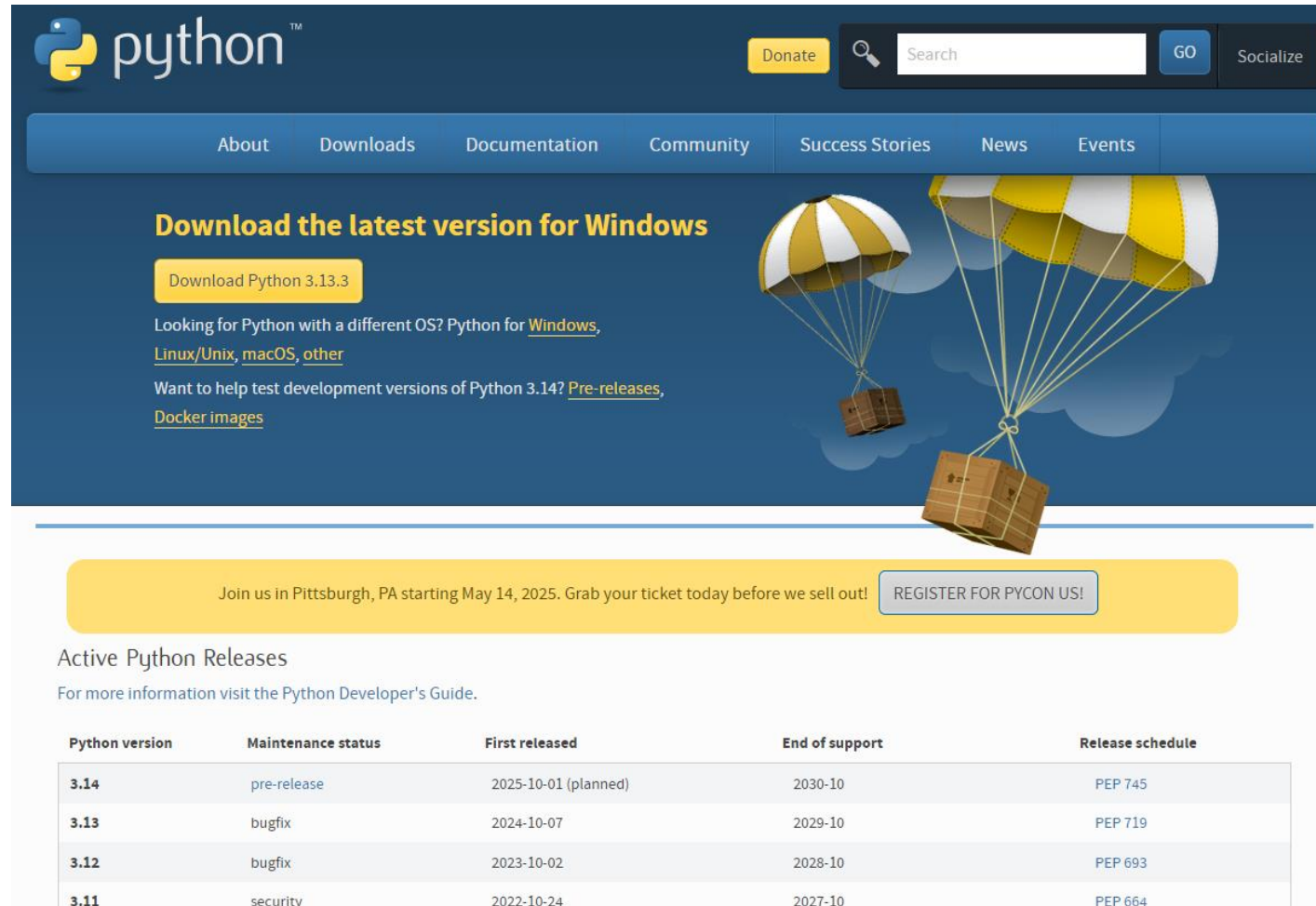


Set Up The Programming Environment



Install Python

- <https://www.python.org/downloads/>



The screenshot shows the Python.org website's download page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: About, Downloads, Documentation, Community, Success Stories, News, and Events. A search bar and a 'Socialize' button are also present. The main heading is 'Download the latest version for Windows', followed by a 'Download Python 3.13.3' button. Below this, there are links for other operating systems: 'Looking for Python with a different OS? Python for [Windows](#), [Linux/Unix](#), [macOS](#), [other](#)'. There's also a link for 'Pre-releases' and 'Docker images'. A large illustration of two parachutes carrying boxes is on the right. A yellow banner at the bottom promotes 'PyCon US' in Pittsburgh, PA, starting May 14, 2025, with a 'REGISTER FOR PYCON US!' button. Below the banner, the 'Active Python Releases' section provides a table of release information.

Join us in Pittsburgh, PA starting May 14, 2025. Grab your ticket today before we sell out! [REGISTER FOR PYCON US!](#)

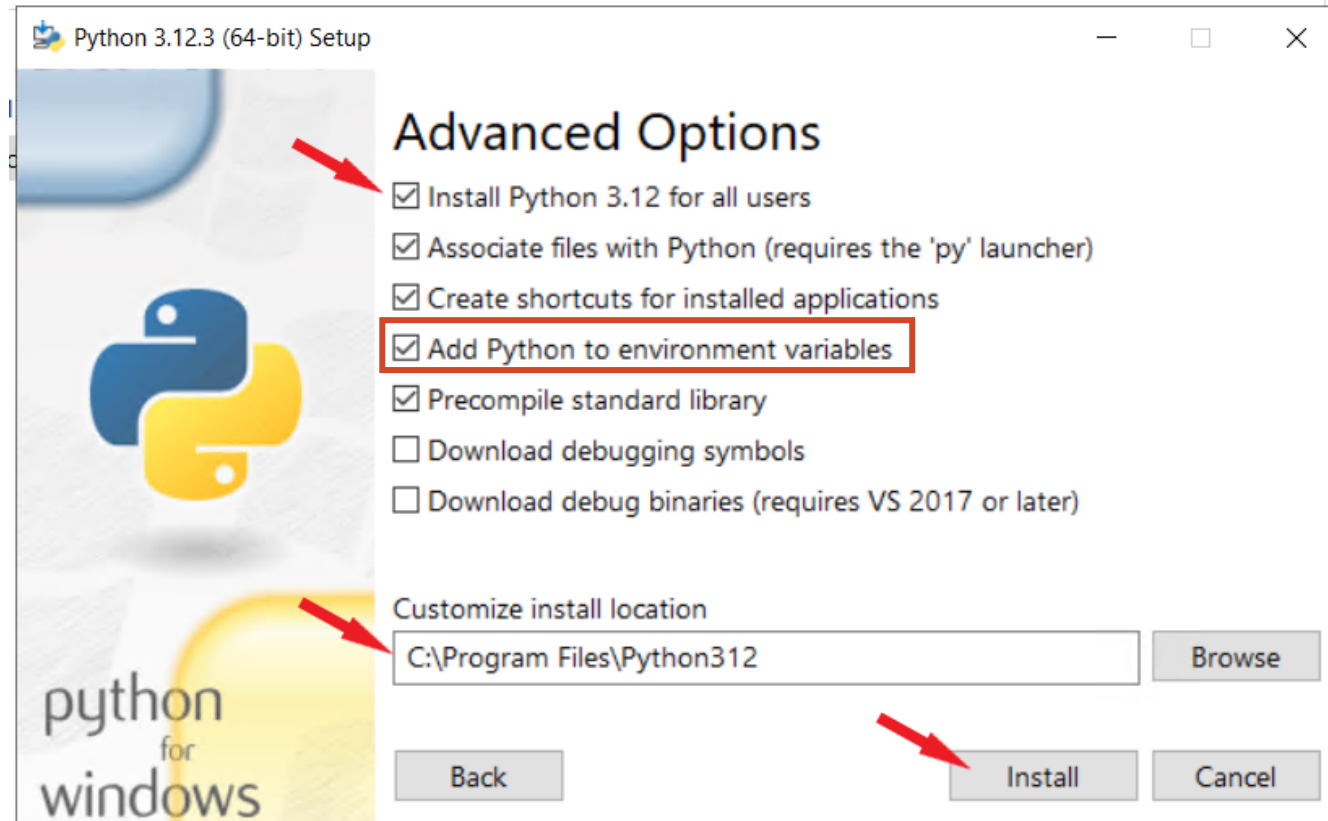
Active Python Releases

For more information visit the [Python Developer's Guide](#).

Python version	Maintenance status	First released	End of support	Release schedule
3.14	pre-release	2025-10-01 (planned)	2030-10	PEP 745
3.13	bugfix	2024-10-07	2029-10	PEP 719
3.12	bugfix	2023-10-02	2028-10	PEP 693
3.11	security	2022-10-24	2027-10	PEP 664



...Install Python



...Install Python



...Install Python

- Other options in Windows OS
 - Install Anaconda
 - Python interpreter + useful libraries and tools for data science
 - Use Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL)
 - If you are working on Windows and want a Linux environment for working with Python

```
python3 --version
```

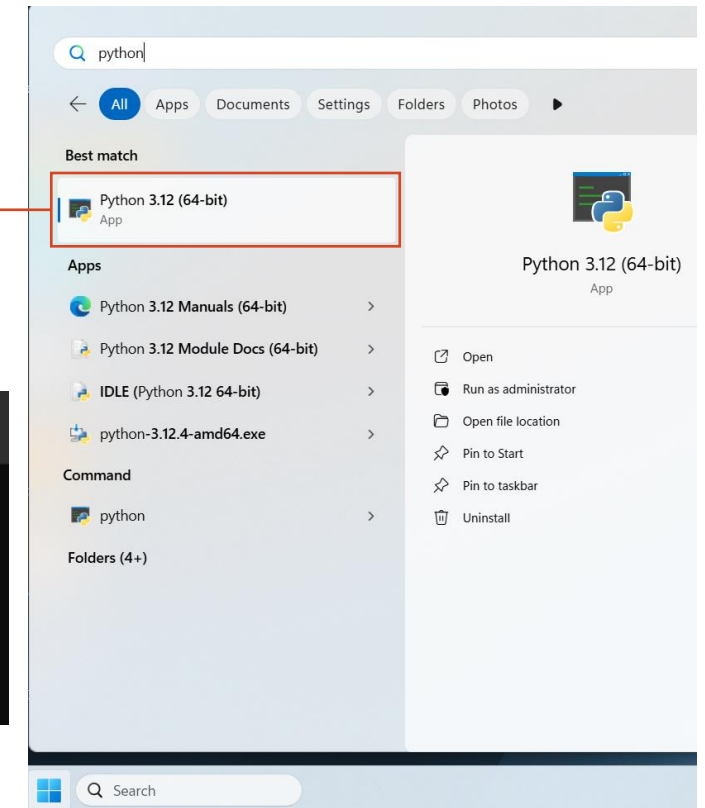
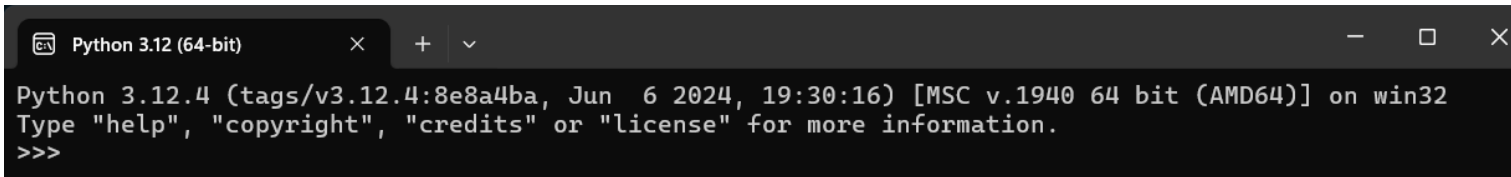
Test



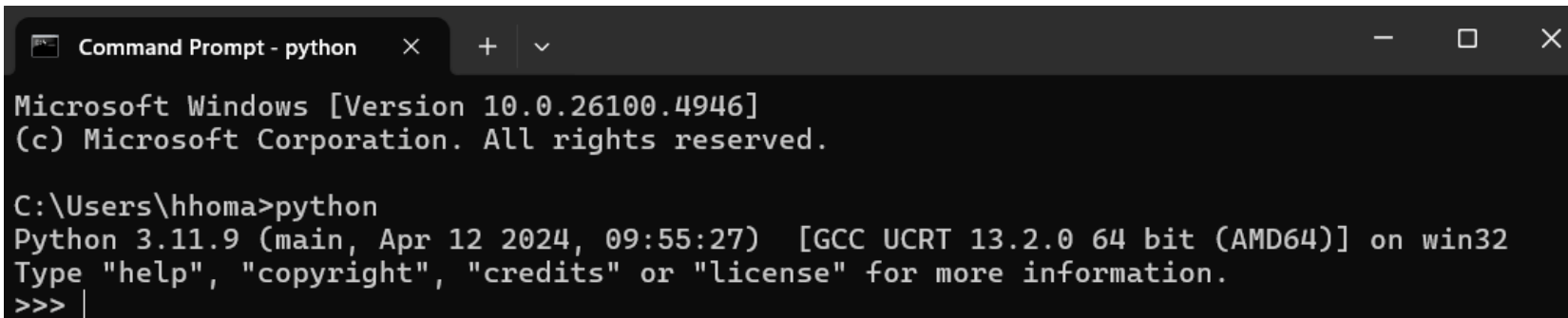
Coding

- You can start coding by the default Python REPL (Read-Eval-Print Loop)
 - Interactive programming environment
 - Write and execute code in a step-by-step manner and get immediate feedback

Run from Windows Start Menu



Run from Command Prompt



...Coding

- Single line example

```
Python 3.12 (64-bit) x + v
Python 3.12.4 (tags/v3.12.4:8e8a4ba, Jun 6 2024, 19:30:16) [MSC v.1940 64 bit (AMD64)] on win32
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print("Hello world!")
Hello world!
>>> |
```

- Multi-line examples

```
>>> print \
... ("My name is Hossein")
My name is Hossein
>>> |
```

Difficult! Isn't it?

```
>>> x = "What is your name?"
>>> print(x)
What is your name?
>>>
```

```
>>> print("Hello!"); print("How are you?")
Hello!
How are you?
```

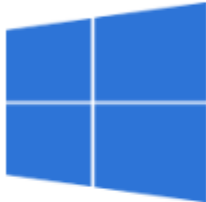
```
>>> i = 1
>>> while i <= 5:
...     print(i)
...     i = i + 1
...
1
2
3
4
5
>>> |
```



Install VS Code

Download Visual Studio Code

Free and built on open source. Integrated Git, debugging and extensions.



↓ Windows


Windows 10, 11

User Installer [x64](#) [Arm64](#)

System Installer [x64](#) [Arm64](#)

.zip [x64](#) [Arm64](#)

CLI [x64](#) [Arm64](#)



↓ .deb

Debian, Ubuntu

.deb [x64](#) [Arm32](#) [Arm64](#)

.rpm [x64](#) [Arm32](#) [Arm64](#)


.tar.gz [x64](#) [Arm32](#) [Arm64](#)

Snap [Snap Store](#)

CLI [x64](#) [Arm32](#) [Arm64](#)

↓ .rpm

Red Hat, Fedora, SUSE



↓ Mac

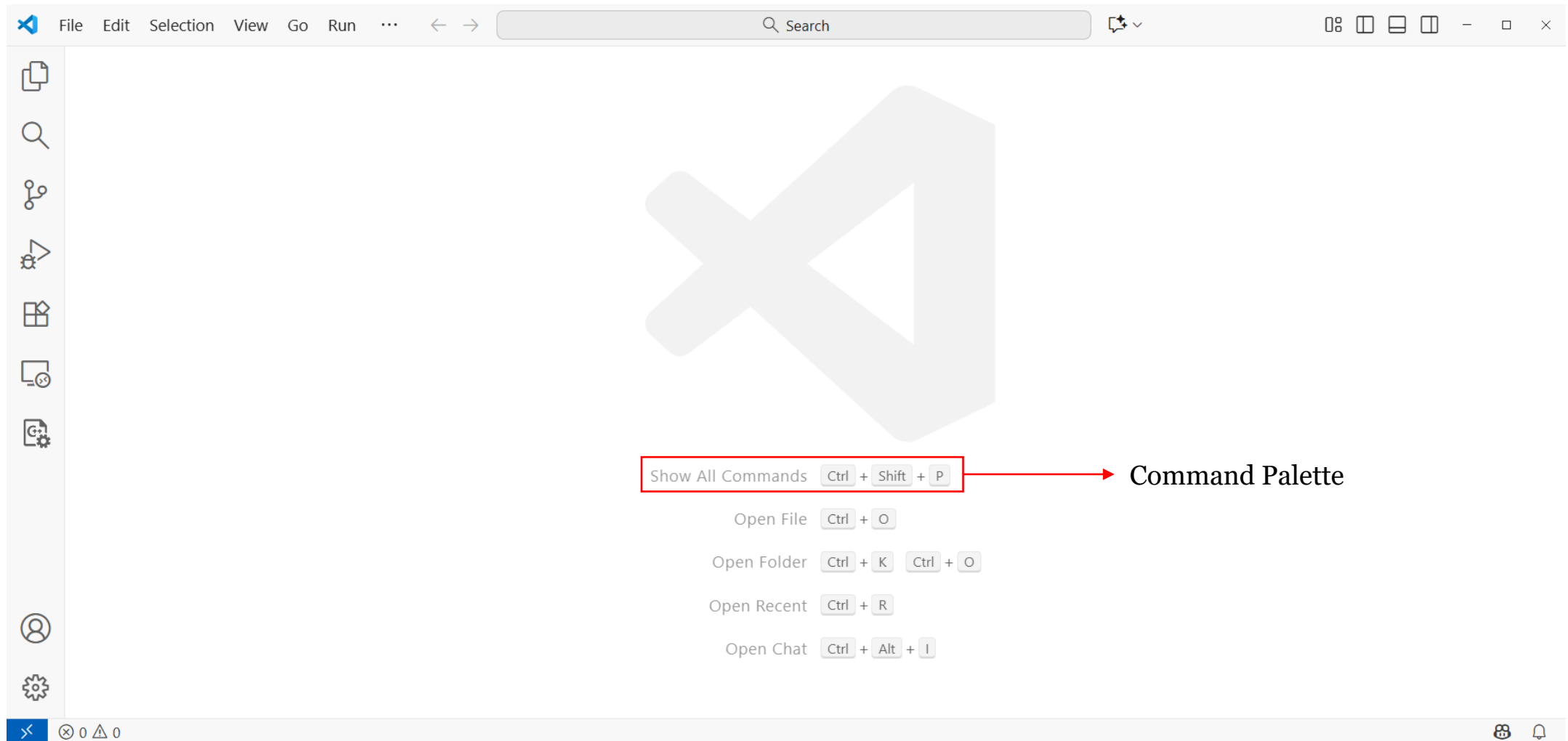
macOS 10.15+

.zip [Intel chip](#) [Apple silicon](#) [Universal](#)

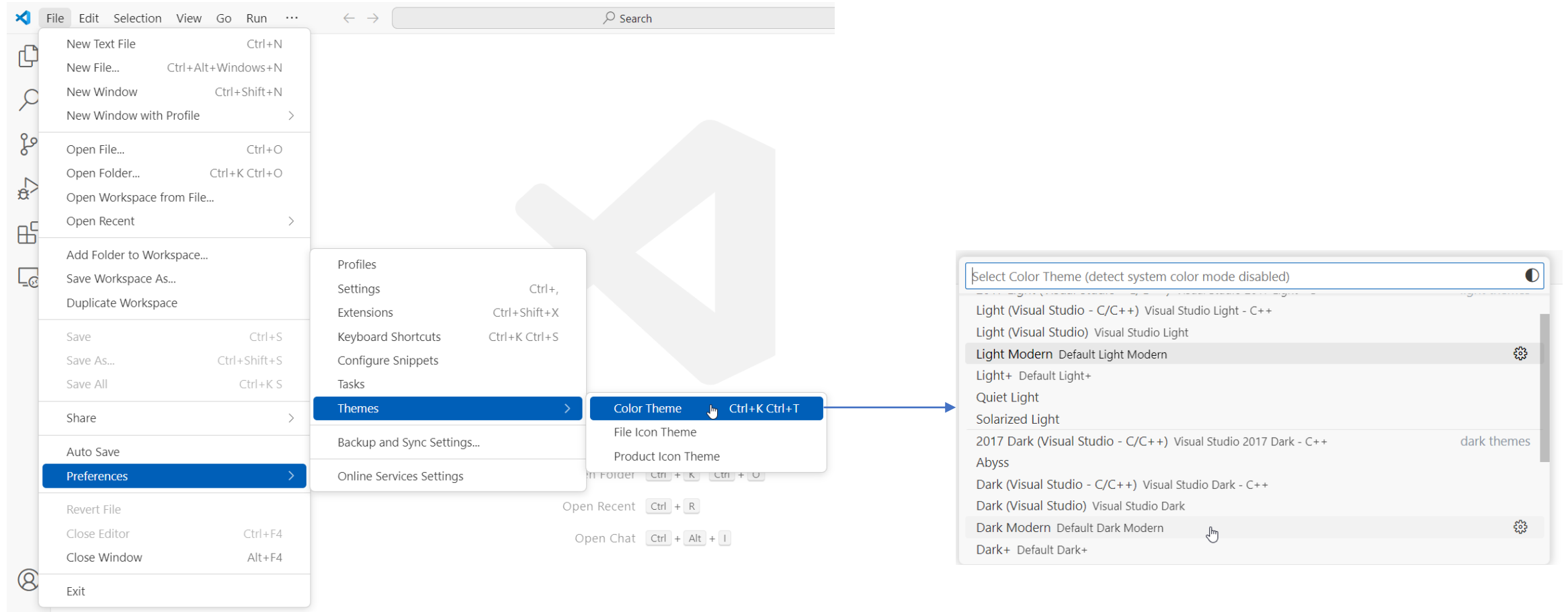
CLI [Intel chip](#) [Apple silicon](#)



VS Code Environment



...VS Code Environment



...VS Code Environment

- Install Python Extension on VS Code
 - Left side bar → Extensions → Search for Python

The screenshot displays the Visual Studio Code interface with the Extensions Marketplace open. The search bar in the left sidebar contains the text 'python'. The search results list several extensions, with the 'Python' extension by Microsoft highlighted. The main panel shows the details for the 'Python' extension, including its version (v2025.6.0), download count (168.5M), and star rating (4 stars). The extension description states: 'Python language support with extension access points for IntelliSense (Pylance), Debugging (Python Debugger), linting, and more!'. The 'Installation' section on the right shows the extension is installed, with details such as Identifier (ms-python.python), Version (2025.6.0), Last Updated (2025-05-11, 08:25:35), Size (29.08MB), and Cache (2.97KB).

EXTENSIONS: MARKETPLACE

python

Python v2025.6.0

168.5M | 4 stars

Python language support with extension access points for IntelliSense (Pylance), Debugging (Python Debugger), linting, and more!

This publisher has verified ownership

Activation time: 159ms

This extension has reported 1 uncaught exception

This extension has a Pre-Release version

Hold Alt key to mouse over

Python extension for Visual Studio Code

A Visual Studio Code extension with rich support for the Python language (for all actively supported Python versions), providing access points for extensions to seamlessly integrate and offer support for IntelliSense (Pylance), debugging (Python Debugger), formatting, linting, code navigation, refactoring, variable explorer, test explorer, and more!

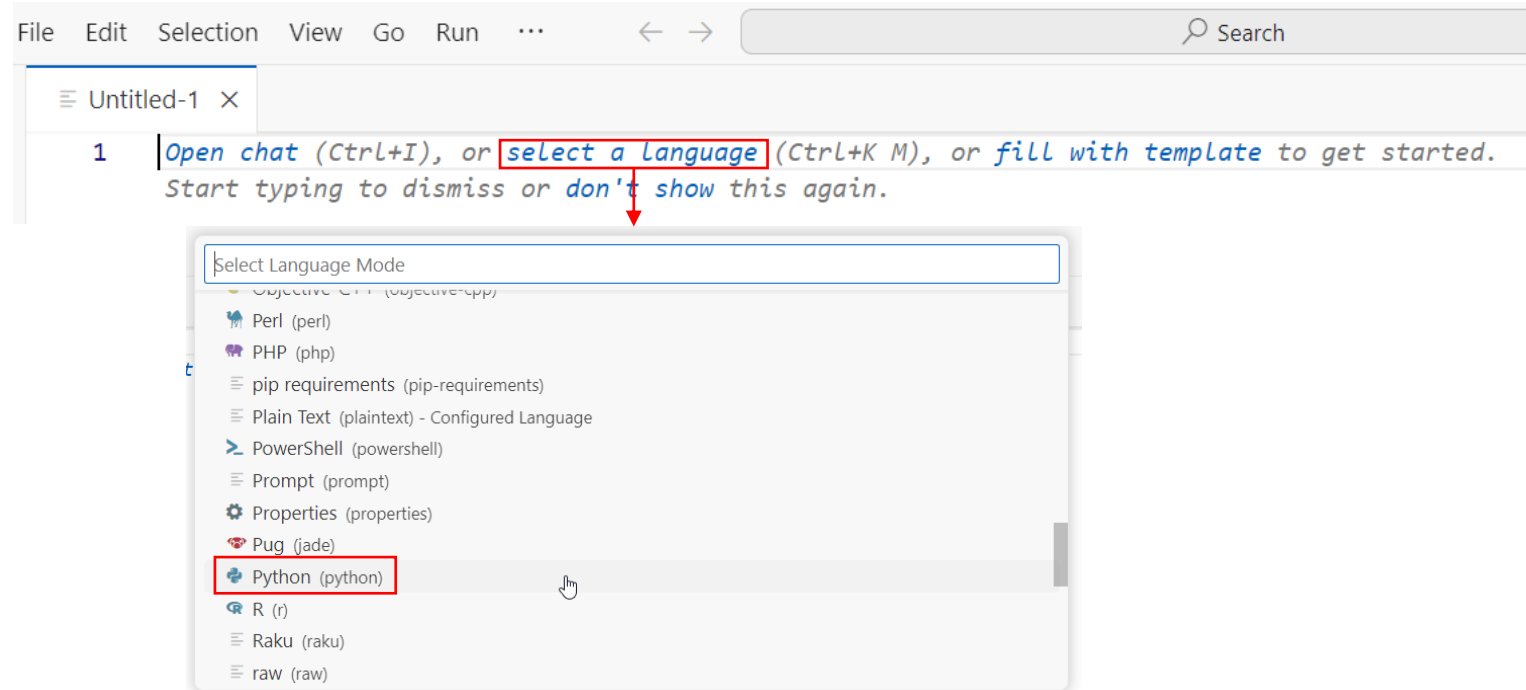
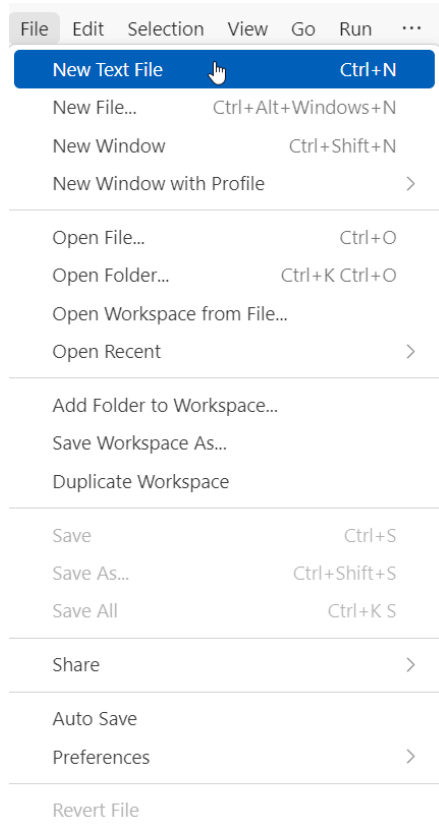
Support for vscod.dev

Installation

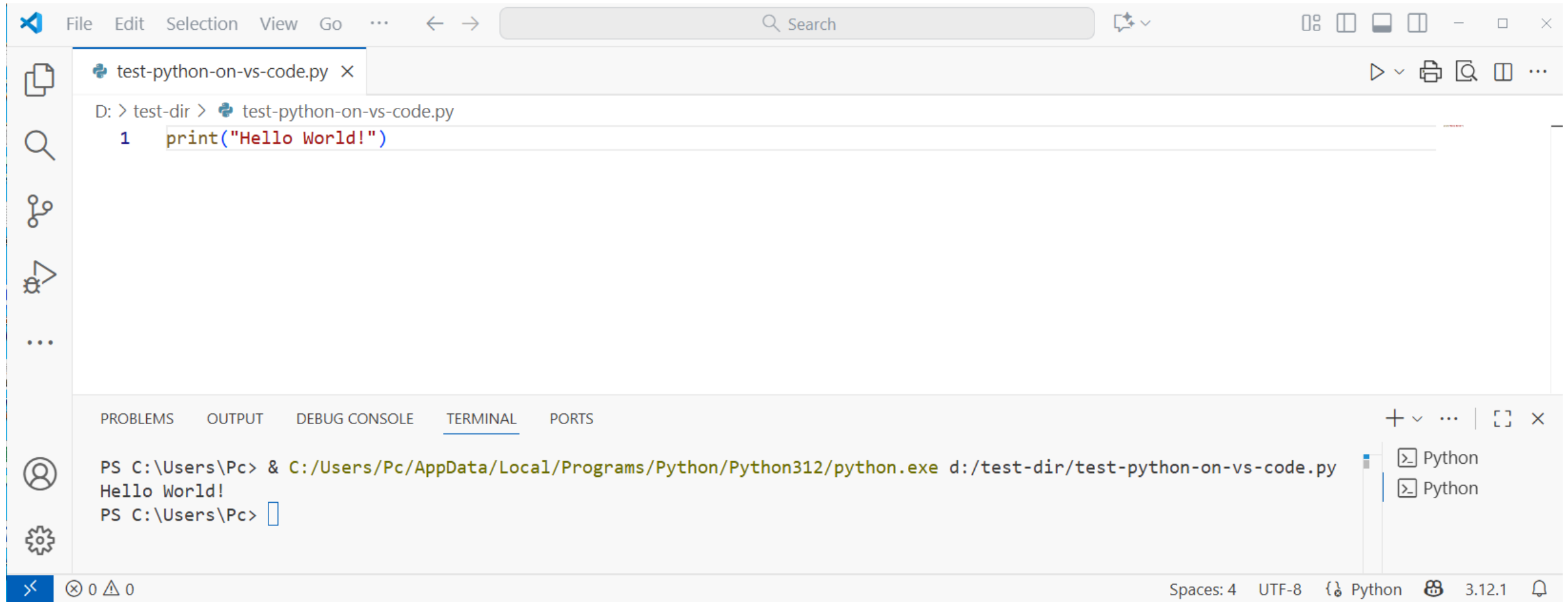
Identifier	ms-python.python
Version	2025.6.0
Last Updated	2025-05-11, 08:25:35
Size	29.08MB
Cache	2.97KB



Testing Python on VS Code



...Testing Python on VS Code



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code (VS Code) interface. The editor window displays a file named `test-python-on-vs-code.py` with the following content:

```
D: > test-dir > test-python-on-vs-code.py
1 print("Hello World!")
```

The bottom panel shows the **TERMINAL** tab, which contains the command prompt output:

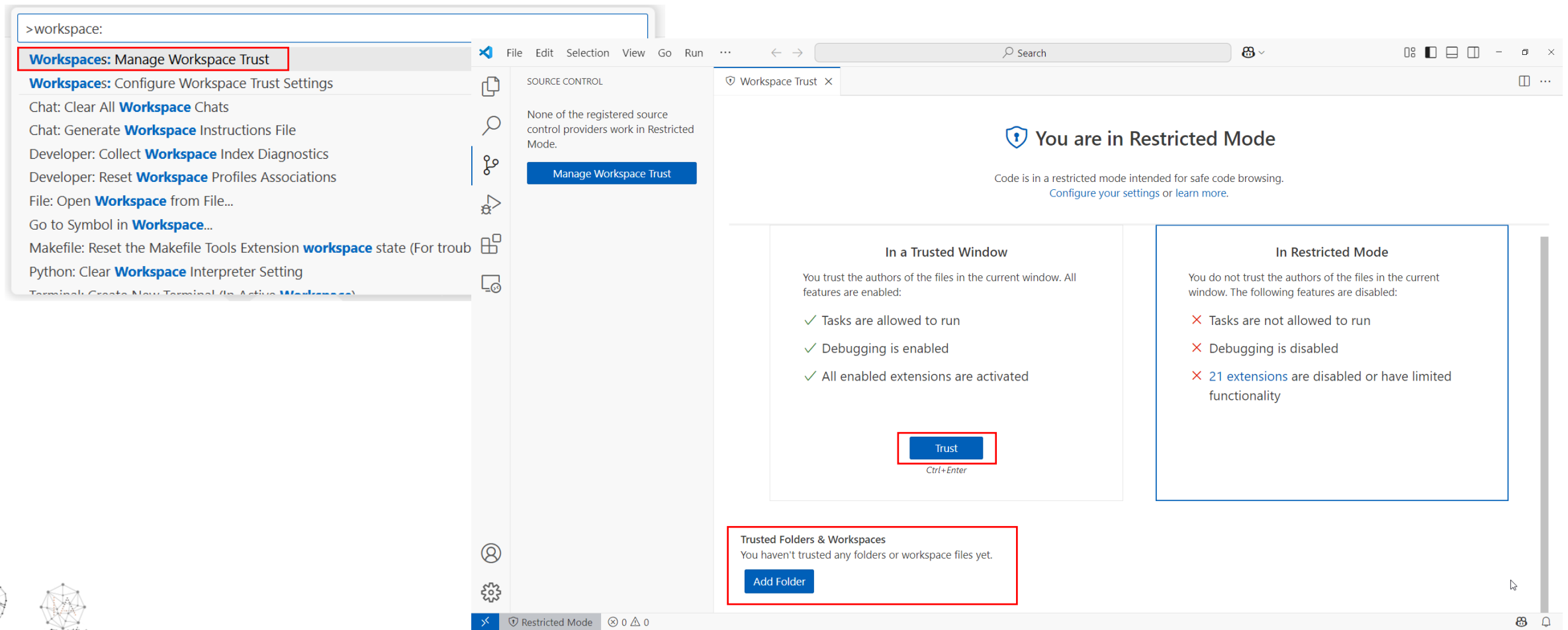
```
PS C:\Users\Pc> & C:/Users/Pc/AppData/Local/Programs/Python/Python312/python.exe d:/test-dir/test-python-on-vs-code.py
Hello World!
PS C:\Users\Pc>
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates the file is encoded in UTF-8, uses 4 spaces for indentation, and the Python interpreter is set to version 3.12.1.



...Testing Python on VS Code

- It may require to be run from a trusted folder!



Main Python Libraries for Machine Learning



Array manipulation
Matrix manipulation



Series
Data-Frames



Drawing charts and plots
(Linear, Scatter and Pie plots, Bar Charts, Histograms, Boxplots, Heatmaps)



Machine Learning Algorithms



Install the Required Libraries

- On the
 - Windows command prompt (cmd) or
 - command terminal of VS Code (ctrl+ `)
- write `pip install` (or `python -m pip install`)
 - numpy
 - pandas
 - scikit-learn
 - matplotlib



Troubleshooting

- **NOTE-1:** Sometimes previous versions work but the latest one does not.
 - Install an specific version:
 - `pip install "matplotlib=3.8.2"`
- **NOTE-2:** You may require GCC compiler on your system for working with Matplotlib
 - Follow the instruction explained by Microsoft: “C/C++ for Visual Studio Code”
 - Install MinGW-x64 on Windows: <https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/languages/cpp>

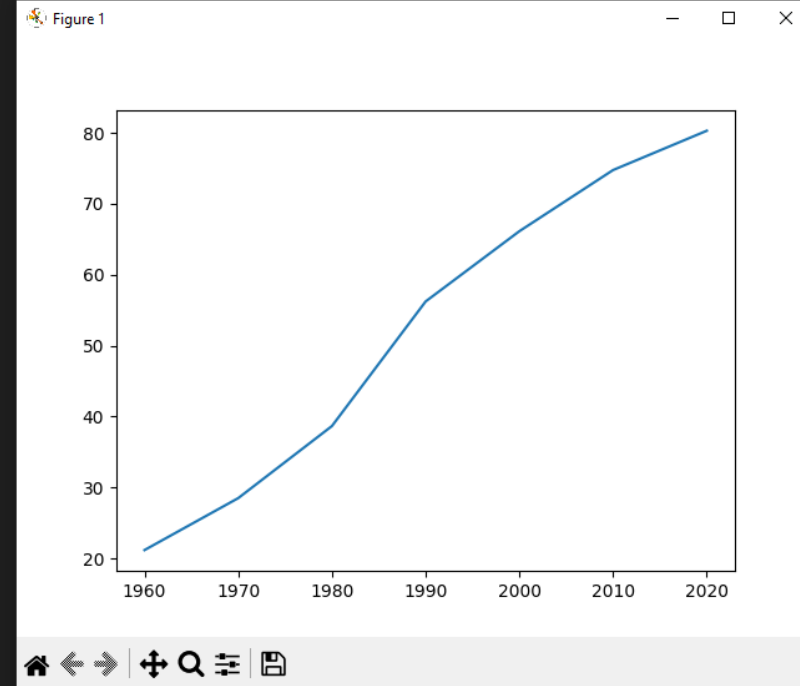


Test Libs

```
1 import numpy as np
2 import pandas as pd
3 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
4 import sklearn.datasets as skdb
5
6 myArray = np.array([[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6], [7, 8, 9], [10, 11, 12]])
7 print ("myArray =\n", myArray, "\ndata type: ", myArray.dtype)
8
9 myDataFrame = pd.DataFrame(myArray,
10                             index=['row1', 'row2', 'row3', 'row4'],
11                             columns = ['col1', 'col2', 'col3'])
12 print("myDataFrame:")
13 print(myDataFrame)
14
15 iris=skdb.load_iris()
16 print("Iris dataset was loaded")
17
18 years = [1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020]
19 iranpop = [21.19, 28.51, 38.67, 56.23, 66.13, 74.75, 80.29]
20
21 plt.plot(years, iranpop)
22 plt.show()
23
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

```
myDataFrame:
   col1  col2  col3
row1    1    2    3
row2    4    5    6
row3    7    8    9
row4   10   11   12
Iris dataset was loaded
```



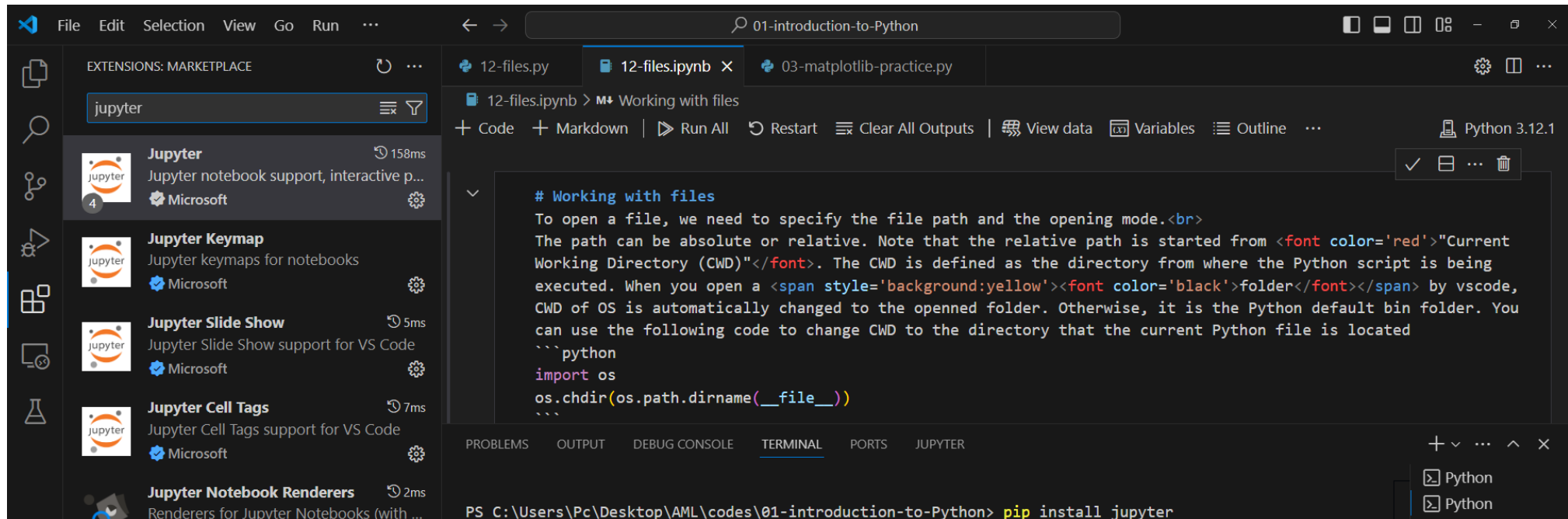
Jupyter Notebook

- Being familiar with Jupyter notebook is strongly recommended.
 - Why?
 - Many code examples of books and online courses at GitHub are written as Jupyter notebooks.
- What is it?
 - A powerful tool to create interactive documents containing text, images, and executable code snippets (Python in our case).
 - Jupyter's three core programming languages are **Julia**, **Python** and **R**.
 - Now, it supports various programming languages.
- Format of files = .ipynb
 - Why ipynb?
 - It was spun off from IPython project in 2014.



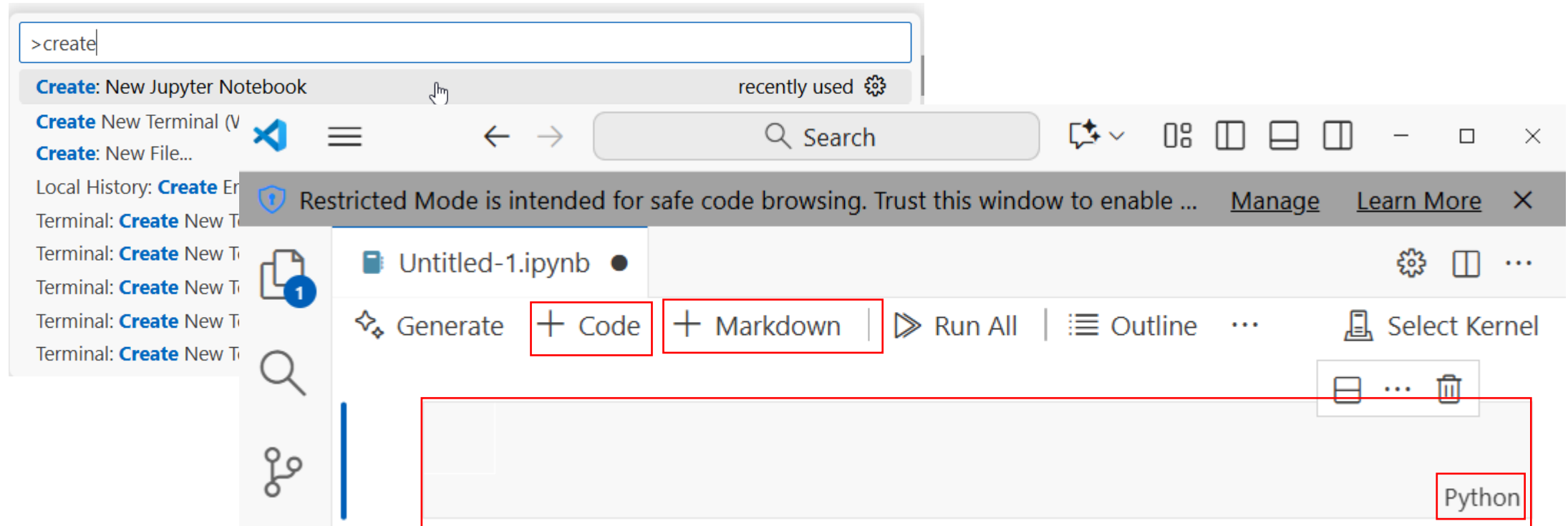
...Jupyter Notebook

- Install
 1. From the Command line: `pip install Jupyter`
 2. Install Jupyter Notebook extension on VS Code



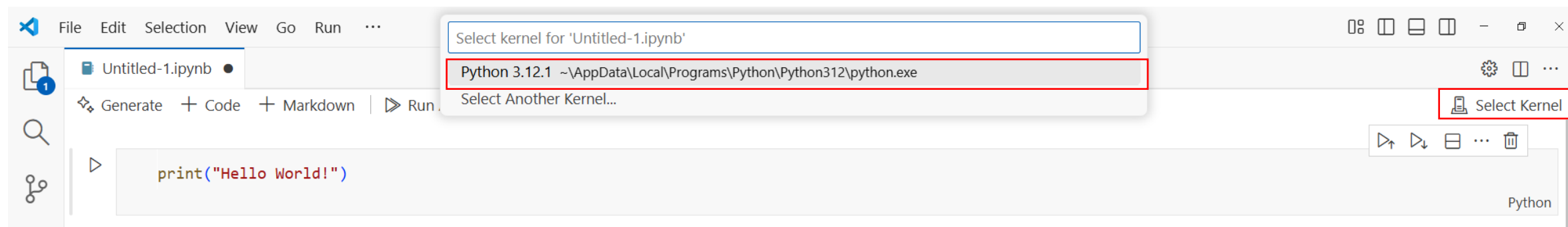
...Jupyter Notebook

- On VS Code



...Jupyter Notebook

- Example



...Jupyter Notebook

The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook interface with two code cells. The first cell, labeled [6], contains the following code:

```
iris=skdb.load_iris()
index=['row1', 'row2', 'row3', 'row4'],
columns = ['col1', 'col2', 'col3'])
myDataFrame
```

The output of the first cell is a DataFrame with 4 rows and 3 columns:

	col1	col2	col3
row1	1	2	3
row2	4	5	6
row3	7	8	9
row4	10	11	12

The second cell, labeled [7], contains the following code:

```
years = [1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020]
iranpop = [21.19, 28.51, 38.67, 56.23, 66.13, 74.75, 80.29]
plt.plot(years, iranpop)
```

The output of the second cell is a line plot showing the population of Iran over time. The x-axis represents years from 1960 to 2020, and the y-axis represents population in millions, ranging from 20 to 80. The plot shows a steady increase in population over the 60-year period.

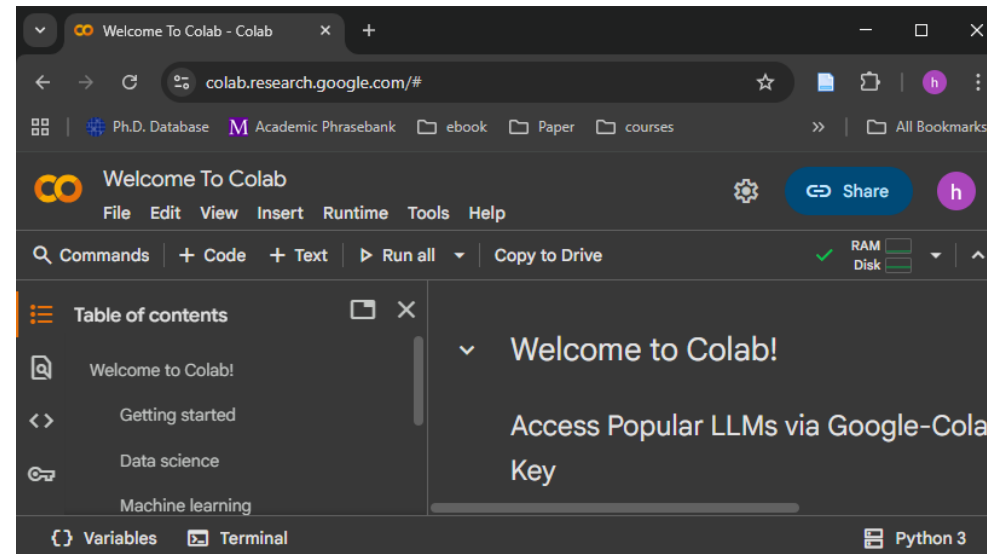


...Jupyter Notebook

- Google Colab
 - Online Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for Python
 - No setup is required → Get rid of installation
 - Offers free access to computing resources, including GPUs and TPUs, making it popular among researchers and students working on deep learning and data science projects.
 - Access to GPUs is restricted and is NOT guaranteed
 - Notebooks can run for at most 12 hours



<https://colab.research.google.com>



Python Virtual Environment

- What is it?
 - A folder structure that gives you everything you need to run a lightweight yet isolated Python environment.
 - Created on top of an existing Python installation (base) and are isolated from the packages in the base environment.
 - When used from within a virtual environment, common installation tools such as pip, install Python packages into a virtual environment
- Benefits
 - Manage dependencies separately for different projects
 - Minimize reproducibility issues
 - Preventing conflicts
 - Maintaining cleaner setups



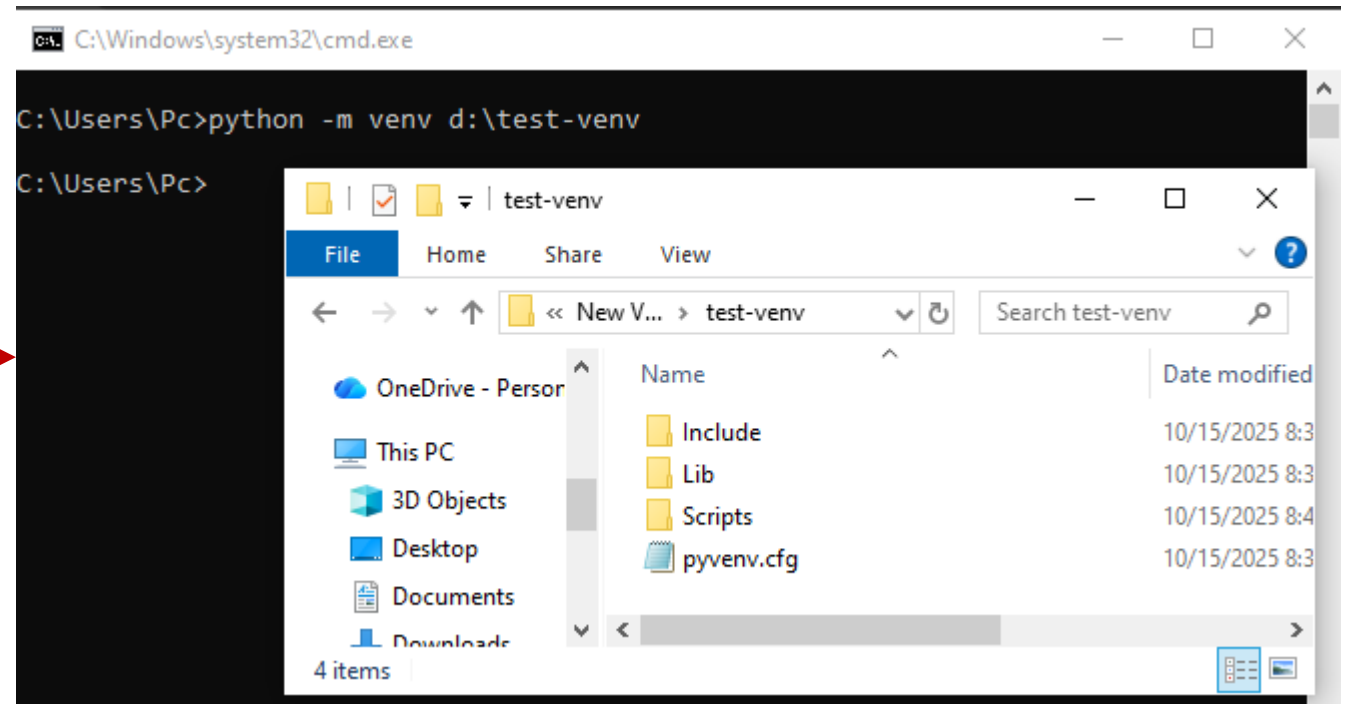
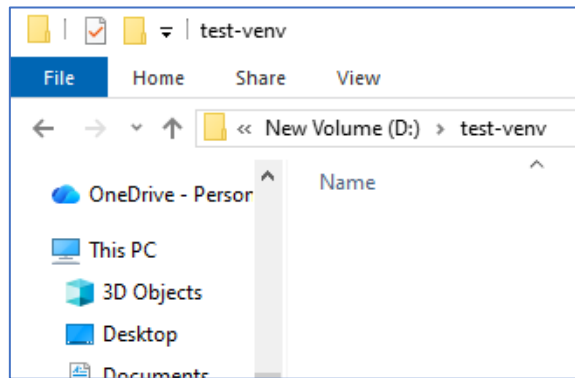
...Python Virtual Environment

- From the command line
 - `python -m venv ENV_DIR_PATH`
 - Note
 - If you have installed multiple Pythons on a single system and want to use a non-default version (not set to the PATH environmental variable as Python) as the base, use the entire path of the appropriate Python. Example:
 - `C:\Users\Name\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python312\python -m venv ENV_DIR_PATH`
- Activation
 - Go to the created virtual environment directory and run the activate script
 - `ENV_DIR_PATH\Scripts\Activate`



...Python Virtual Environment

- ...From the command line
 - Example



...Python Virtual Environment

- ...From the command line

- ...Example

Install a package

```
(test-venv) D:\test-venv>python -m pip install rptree
Collecting rptree
  Obtaining dependency information for rptree from https://files.
  Downloading rptree-0.1.1-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (2.0 kB)
Downloading rptree-0.1.1-py3-none-any.whl (5.0 kB)
Installing collected packages: rptree
Successfully installed rptree-0.1.1

[notice] A new release of pip is available: 23.2.1 -> 25.2
[notice] To update, run: python.exe -m pip install --upgrade pip

(test-venv) D:\test-venv>pip list
Package Version
-----
pip      23.2.1
rptree   0.1.1

[notice] A new release of pip is available: 23.2.1 -> 25.2
[notice] To update, run: python.exe -m pip install --upgrade pip
```

Activation

```
D:\test-venv>Scripts\activate
(test-venv) D:\test-venv>pip list
Package Version
-----
pip      23.2.1

[notice] A new release of pip is available: 23.2.1 -> 25.2
[notice] To update, run: python.exe -m pip install --upgrade pip
```

Works on the venv

```
(test-venv) D:\test-venv>rptree d:\test-dir
d:\test-dir\
├── New folder\
│   ├── New Text Document 2.txt
│   └── New Text Document.txt
├── New folder 2\
└── New Text Document.txt
```

Deactivate

```
(test-venv) D:\test-venv>Scripts\deactivate
D:\test-venv>
```

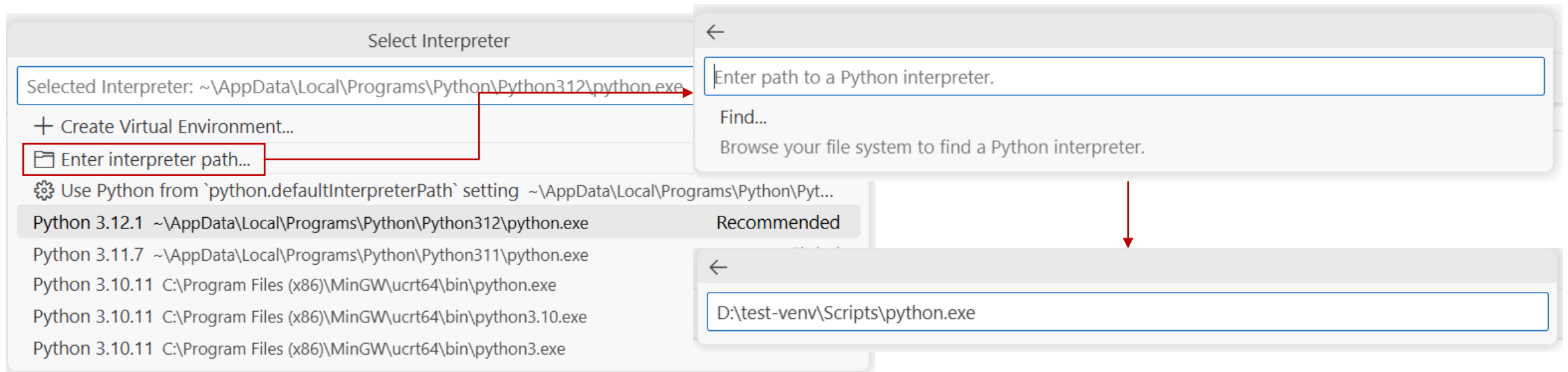
Does not work on the venv

```
(test-venv) D:\test-venv>deactivate
D:\test-venv>rptree d:\test-dir
'rptree' is not recognized as an internal or external command,
operable program or batch file.
```



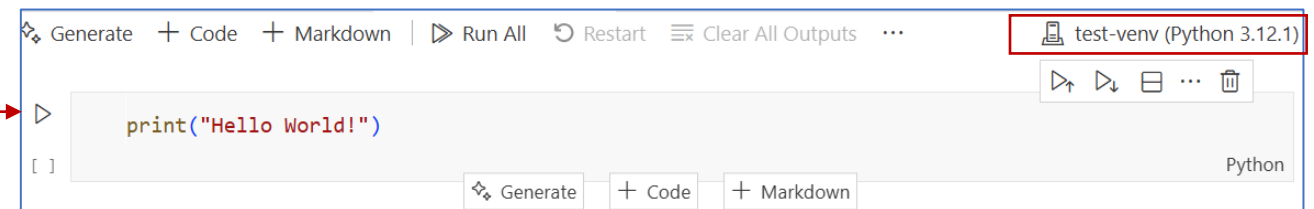
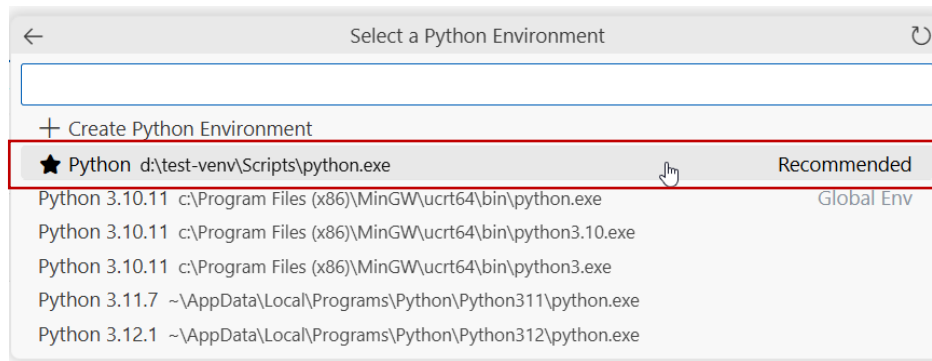
...Python Virtual Environment

- From VS Code
 - Go to Command Palette and select Python: Select Interpreter
 - Enter previously created interpreter path or create a new one



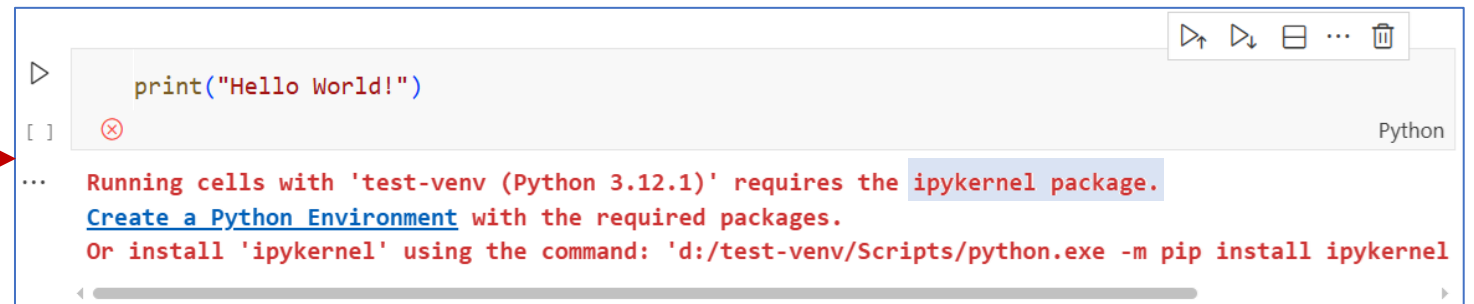
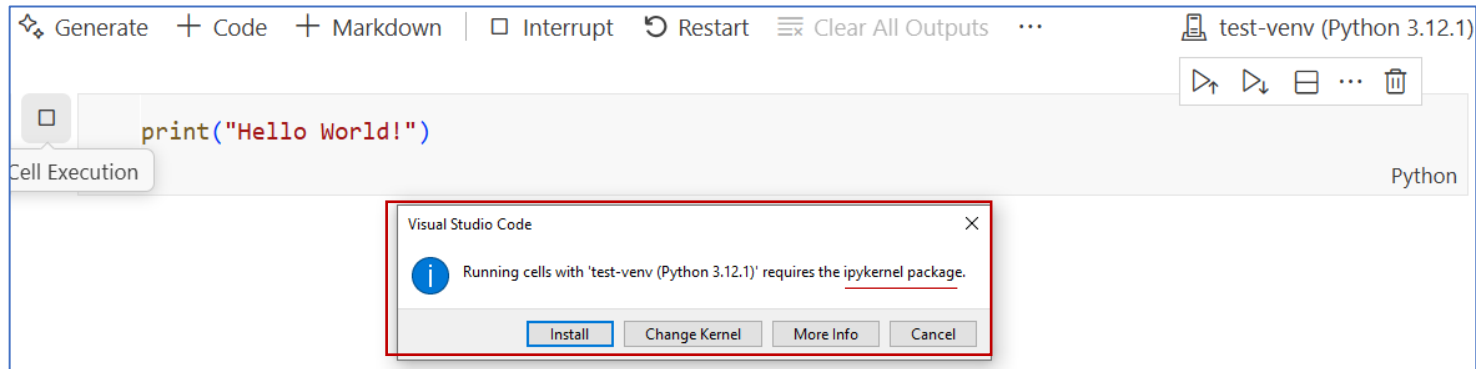
...Python Virtual Environment

- ...From VS Code
 - On kernel selection step, select your virtual environment



...Python Virtual Environment

- ...From VS Code
 - Example



...Python Virtual Environment

- Pin your dependencies
 - Make your virtual environment reproducible
 - Create requirements.txt which contains the list of installed packages
 - Use `pip freeze` command while your virtual environment is active

```
(test-venv) D:\test-venv>python -m pip freeze > requirements.txt
```

PC > New Volume (D:) > test-venv >

Name	Date modified	Type
Include	10/15/2025 8:39 AM	File folder
Lib	10/15/2025 8:39 AM	File folder
Scripts	10/15/2025 8:57 AM	File folder
pyenvv.cfg	10/15/2025 8:39 AM	CFG File
requirements.txt	10/15/2025 2:59 PM	Text Document

requirements.txt - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

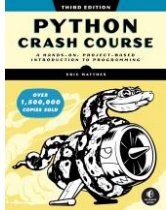
```
rptree==0.1.1
```

- Move to another Python environment or system?
 - You have all the required packages names and versions Install them by a single simple command!
 - `python -m pip install -r requirements.txt`

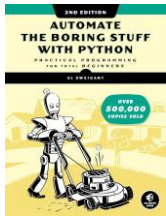


How to Learn Python

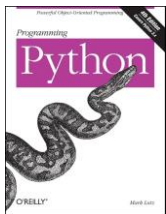
- Books



E. Matthes, Python crash course: A hands-on, project-based introduction to programming, 3rd ed. No Starch Press, 2023.



A. Sweigart, Automate the boring stuff with Python: practical programming for total beginners, 2nd ed. No Starch Press, 2019.



M. Lutz, Programming Python, 4th ed. O'Reilly Media, 2011.

+ Lots of online courses!



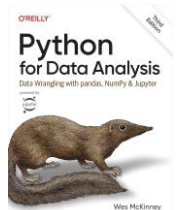
How to Learn Python Libraries

- Online user guides

- <https://numpy.org>
- <https://pandas.pydata.org>
- <https://matplotlib.org>
- <https://scikit-learn.org>



- W. McKinney, *Python for Data Analysis: Data Wrangling with pandas, NumPy, and Jupyter*, 3rd ed. O'Reilly Media, 2022.



- Online course

- Applied Data Science with Python- Coursera Specialization,
 - Instructors: Christopher Brooks, Kevyn Collins-Thompson, Daniel Romero, and V. G. Vinod Vydiswaran
 - University of Michigan



+ Lots of online courses!



User guides

NumPy

User Guide

API reference

Building from source

Development

Release notes

Learn

More

2.1 (stable)

NumPy user guide

NumPy user guide

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NumPy user guide

This guide is an overview and explains the important features; details are found in NumPy reference.

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All the codes are available online:

<https://github.com/hhomaei/aml>

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let's start coding...

