

# piRover Builds with K2

## Python – Getting Started

Rev 1.0

### Overview:

In this activity, you will get a first look at the Python programming language. You will investigate Python tools integrated into the Raspberry Pi and run Python code both at the command prompt and in an editor window.

### Prerequisites:

Prior to beginning the instruction provided in this lesson you must have completed the following:

1. piRover: Configure the Raspberry Pi

### Performance Outcomes:

1. Run a Python program using the command line interface (CLI)
2. View Python code and run using the Thonny development tool.
3. Run Python 3 code.

### Resources:

1. [TIOBE Index](#)

### Materials:

1. piRover

## Introduction to Python

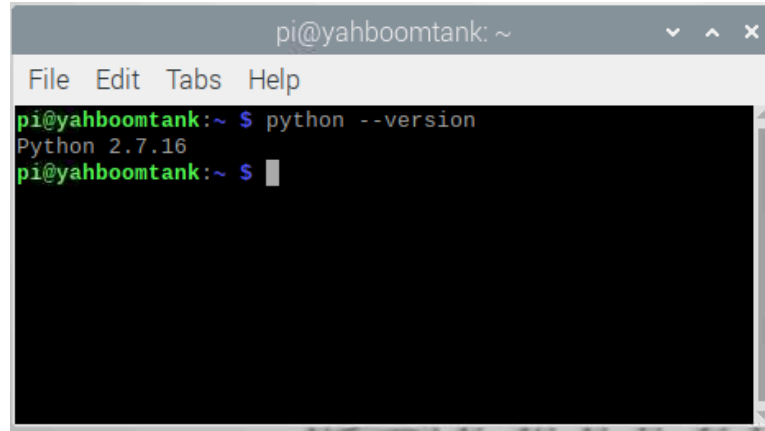
Python is the third most popular programming language according to the [TIOBE Index](#) at the time of this writing. Compare the curves for the various languages and you see that Python adoption has steadily increased. In 2015 it was ranked as 7<sup>th</sup> and now only trails behind C and Java. It is popular because it was designed to be easy to understand even by a beginner, it scales from entry-level applications to very large cloud-based data analytics solutions, and it is open-source with a very large community providing features and support.

Let's start by investigating Python support included in the Raspberry Pi along with a sample Yahboom Python program.

1. Open and view your piRover desktop using VNC Viewer.
2. Open a terminal window. Enter the following Python command to check which version of Python is installed on your Raspberry Pi.

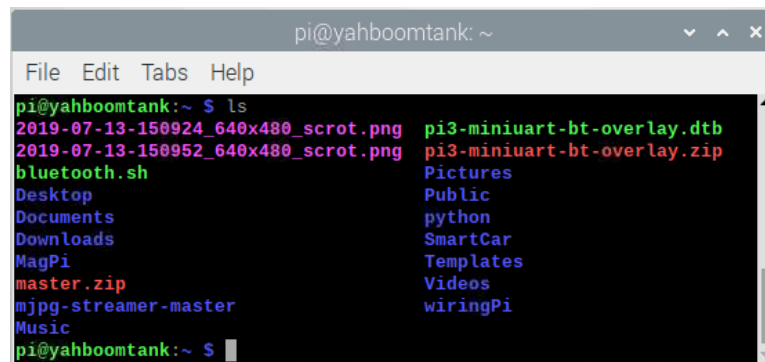
**python --version**

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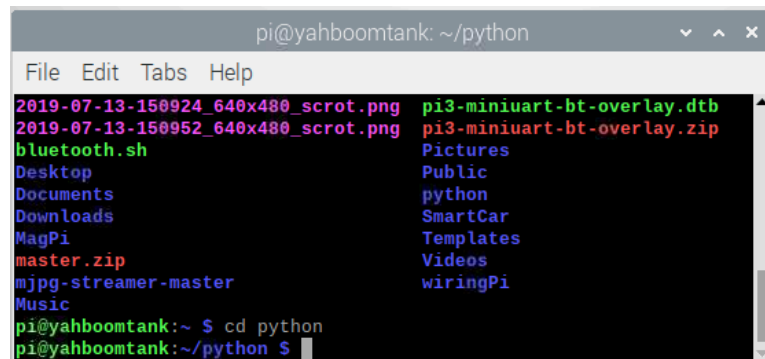
```
pi@yahboomtank: ~  
File Edit Tabs Help  
pi@yahboomtank:~ $ python --version  
Python 2.7.16  
pi@yahboomtank:~ $
```

3. You see that Python 2.7 is installed. This is an older version of Python. Later in the activity you will install version 3. Version 2 is still broadly used but Python 2 updates are no longer supported as of January 1, 2020. This means that you will never see a version 2.8 and any new development should be done using version 3. Again, you'll update to version 3 shortly but let's take a look at Version 2.7.
4. Enter **ls** list the content of your home directory.



```
pi@yahboomtank: ~  
File Edit Tabs Help  
pi@yahboomtank:~ $ ls  
2019-07-13-150924_640x480_scrot.png  pi3-miniuart-bt-overlay.dtb  
2019-07-13-150952_640x480_scrot.png  pi3-miniuart-bt-overlay.zip  
bluetooth.sh                         Pictures  
Desktop                              Public  
Documents                            python  
Downloads                            SmartCar  
MagPi                                Templates  
master.zip                           Videos  
mjpg-streamer-master                 wiringPi  
Music  
pi@yahboomtank:~ $
```

5. Note the python directory. Move to this directory using the **cd** change directory command.

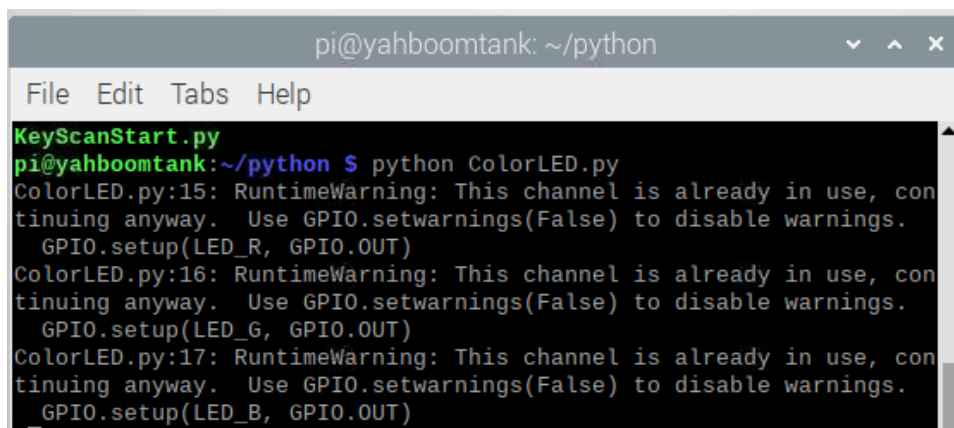


```
pi@yahboomtank: ~/python  
File Edit Tabs Help  
2019-07-13-150924_640x480_scrot.png  pi3-miniuart-bt-overlay.dtb  
2019-07-13-150952_640x480_scrot.png  pi3-miniuart-bt-overlay.zip  
bluetooth.sh                         Pictures  
Desktop                              Public  
Documents                            python  
Downloads                            SmartCar  
MagPi                                Templates  
master.zip                           Videos  
mjpg-streamer-master                 wiringPi  
Music  
pi@yahboomtank:~ $ cd python  
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $
```

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- Note the prompt changes to show that you are now located in the python directory under your home directory. Again, enter **ls** to view the contents.
- CAUTION: You are about to run Yahboom G1 Tank code. If you choose to run code like CarRun.py, your piRover may run off the table and crash!
- Let stick with something basic for now, like **ColorLED.py** Run this Python program by entering the following command. Note the capitalization – it matters!

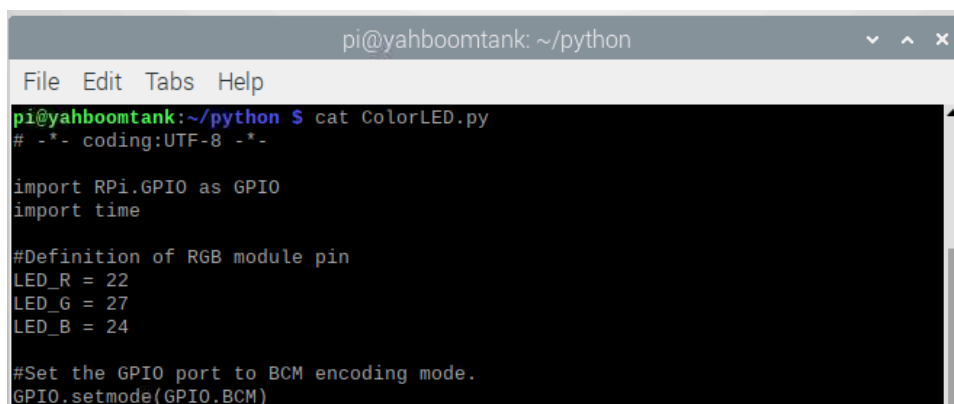
**python ColorLED.py**



```
pi@yahboomtank: ~/python
File Edit Tabs Help
KeyScanStart.py
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $ python ColorLED.py
ColorLED.py:15: RuntimeWarning: This channel is already in use, continuing anyway. Use GPIO.setwarnings(False) to disable warnings.
  GPIO.setup(LED_R, GPIO.OUT)
ColorLED.py:16: RuntimeWarning: This channel is already in use, continuing anyway. Use GPIO.setwarnings(False) to disable warnings.
  GPIO.setup(LED_G, GPIO.OUT)
ColorLED.py:17: RuntimeWarning: This channel is already in use, continuing anyway. Use GPIO.setwarnings(False) to disable warnings.
  GPIO.setup(LED_B, GPIO.OUT)
```

- The Python program runs and the LED lights flash. Close the terminal window or press Ctrl + C to exit the program.
- You just “ran” or “executed” the Python code. You may also want to view the code. One way is to use the Linux **cat** command. Use the scroll bar to view the entire code listing.

**cat ColorLED.py**



```
pi@yahboomtank: ~/python
File Edit Tabs Help
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $ cat ColorLED.py
# -*- coding:UTF-8 -*-

import RPi.GPIO as GPIO
import time

#Definition of RGB module pin
LED_R = 22
LED_G = 27
LED_B = 24

#Set the GPIO port to BCM encoding mode.
GPIO.setmode(GPIO.BCM)
```

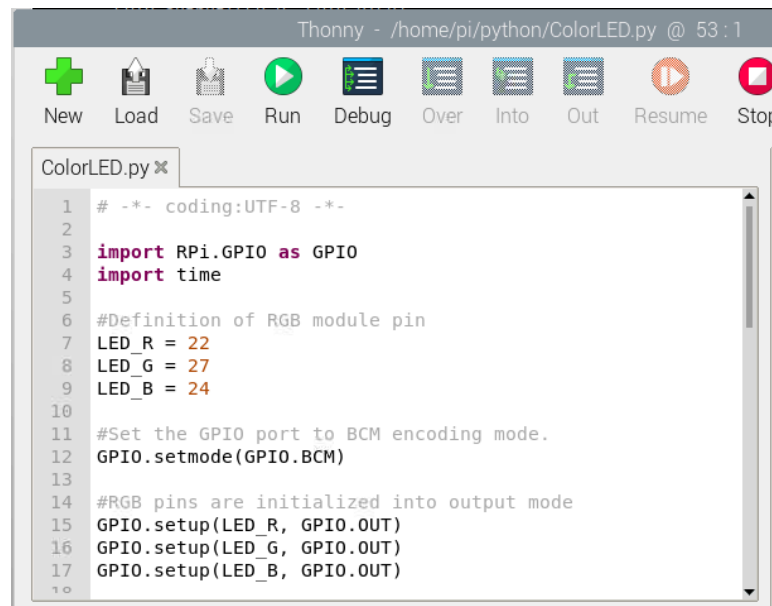
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11. A better way to view the code and even make changes is to use a development tool. A “Integrated Development Environment” or IDE program – Thonny, comes installed with Raspbian.
12. View the ColorLED.py program in the Thonny editor by entering the following command.

**thonny ColorLED.py**

```
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $ thonny ColorLED.py
```

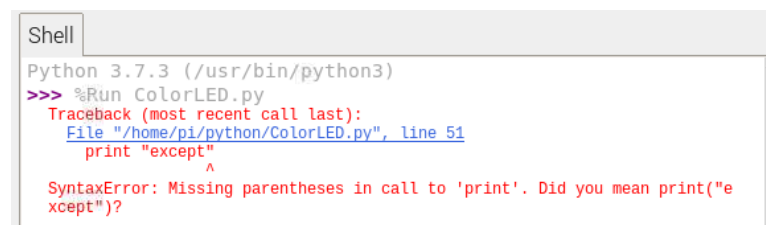
13. The Thonny tool launches and the ColorLED.py code is displayed.



The screenshot shows the Thonny IDE interface. The title bar reads "Thonny - /home/pi/python/ColorLED.py @ 53:1". The toolbar includes buttons for New, Load, Save, Run, Debug, Over, Into, Out, Resume, and Stop. The main editor window displays the following Python code:

```
1 # -*- coding:UTF-8 -*-
2
3 import RPi.GPIO as GPIO
4 import time
5
6 #Definition of RGB module pin
7 LED_R = 22
8 LED_G = 27
9 LED_B = 24
10
11 #Set the GPIO port to BCM encoding mode.
12 GPIO.setmode(GPIO.BCM)
13
14 #RGB pins are initialized into output mode
15 GPIO.setup(LED_R, GPIO.OUT)
16 GPIO.setup(LED_G, GPIO.OUT)
17 GPIO.setup(LED_B, GPIO.OUT)
```

14. Click the green-arrow Run button in the taskbar to execute the code. The program fails and the output in the Shell window shows an exception or error in the code. Note that Thonny is using Python 3 and not Python 2 that was used in the terminal earlier.



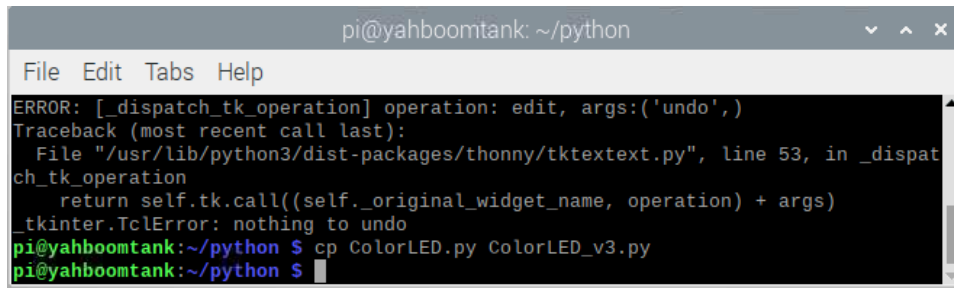
The screenshot shows the Shell window in Thonny. It displays the following output:

```
Python 3.7.3 (/usr/bin/python3)
>>> %Run ColorLED.py
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/home/pi/python/ColorLED.py", line 51
    print "except"
    ^
SyntaxError: Missing parentheses in call to 'print'. Did you mean print("except")?
```

15. Modify this code so that it is Python 3 compatible. First, close the Thonny window and return to the terminal window.
16. Copy the **ColorLED.py** to a new file called **ColorLED\_v3.py** using the Linux copy command – **cp**.

**cp ColorLED.py ColorLED\_v3.py**

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```
pi@yahboomtank: ~/python
File Edit Tabs Help
ERROR: [_dispatchTk_operation] operation: edit, args:('undo',)
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages/thonny/tktexttext.py", line 53, in _dispat
chTk_operation
    return self.tk.call((self._original_widget_name, operation) + args)
_tkinter.TclError: nothing to undo
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $ cp ColorLED.py ColorLED_v3.py
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $
```

17. When getting started, there are just a few differences between Python 2 and Python 3. One of the most significant as far as basics is the use of parentheses with the **print** function. Open your new file in the Thonny editor and modify the print statement.

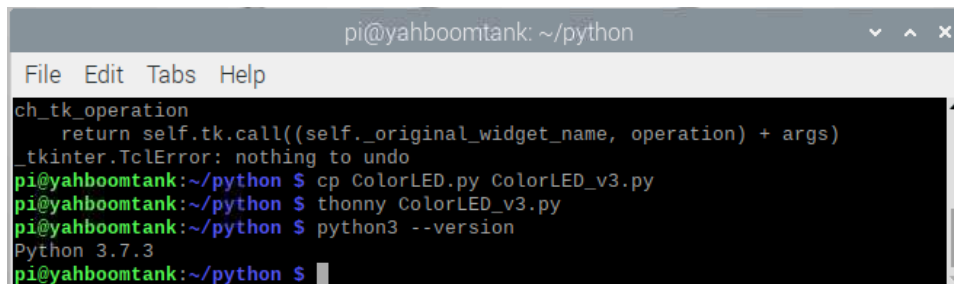
### thonny ColorLED\_v3.py

18. Locate line 51 in the editor window and update the print statement to include parentheses as shown below.

```
49         time.sleep(1)
50     except:
51         print("except")
52     GPIO.cleanup()
53
```

19. Click the Run button on the taskbar. The ColorLED program now runs in Thonny using Python version 3.
20. Close Thonny and return to a terminal window. To launch the Python 3 environment, you enter python3 at the command line. Enter the version option along with python3 below to check on the Python 3 version that is installed on the Raspberry Pi.

### python3 --version

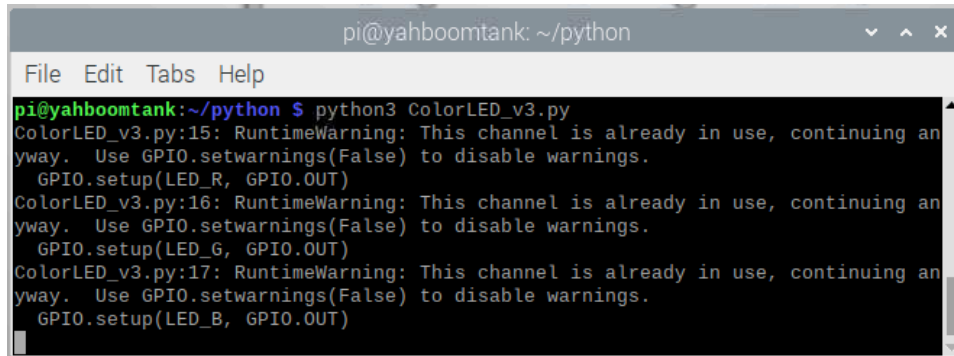


```
pi@yahboomtank: ~/python
File Edit Tabs Help
chTk_operation
    return self.tk.call((self._original_widget_name, operation) + args)
_tkinter.TclError: nothing to undo
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $ cp ColorLED.py ColorLED_v3.py
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $ thonny ColorLED_v3.py
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $ python3 --version
Python 3.7.3
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $
```

21. Run your revised ColorLED\_v3.py file in Python 3 by entering the following.

### python3 ColorLED\_v3.py

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```
pi@yahboomtank: ~/python
File Edit Tabs Help
pi@yahboomtank:~/python $ python3 ColorLED_v3.py
ColorLED_v3.py:15: RuntimeWarning: This channel is already in use, continuing anyway. Use GPIO.setwarnings(False) to disable warnings.
  GPIO.setup(LED_R, GPIO.OUT)
ColorLED_v3.py:16: RuntimeWarning: This channel is already in use, continuing anyway. Use GPIO.setwarnings(False) to disable warnings.
  GPIO.setup(LED_G, GPIO.OUT)
ColorLED_v3.py:17: RuntimeWarning: This channel is already in use, continuing anyway. Use GPIO.setwarnings(False) to disable warnings.
  GPIO.setup(LED_B, GPIO.OUT)
```

22. Again, use Ctrl+C to stop the execution of the ColorLED\_v3 code.

### Assessment:

Follow along with the instructor to create a screen capture of your Thonny editor with the ColorLED\_v3.py loaded. Name the file **thonny.jpg**

Post this image to the assignment link provided. See the tools section for additional help on creating a screen capture. Submit your screen capture with other required files in your weekly submission at the bottom of this week's Moodle section.