Python tutorial:
Installation & basic syntax

Research Group Meeting

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Tutorial outline

- Software installation
- Basic syntax & arithmetic operations (+,-,*,/)
- Strings
- List, set, dictionary, array, and data frame
- If statements
- Loops: for, while, enumerate
- Load and save data (`csv`, `text`)
- Plotting & data visualization

Python programming language

- Widely used high-level programming language for general-purpose programming
- a design philosophy which emphasizes code readability
- a syntax which allows programmers to express concepts in fewer lines of code
- constructs intended to enable writing clear programs

The core philosophy of the language `import this`

- Beautiful is better than ugly.
- Explicit is better than implicit.
- Simple is better than complex.
- Complex is better than complicated.
- Flat is better than nested.
- Sparse is better than dense.
- Readability counts.
- Special cases aren't special enough to break the rules.
- Although practicality beats purity.
- Errors should never pass silently.
- Unless explicitly silenced.
- In the face of ambiguity, refuse the temptation to guess.
- There should be one—and preferably only one—obvious way to do it.
- Although that way may not be obvious at first unless you're Dutch.
- Now is better than never.
- Although never is often better than right now.
- If the implementation is hard to explain, it's a bad idea.
- If the implementation is easy to explain, it may be a good idea.
- Namespaces are one honking great idea—let's do more of those!

Downloading Software

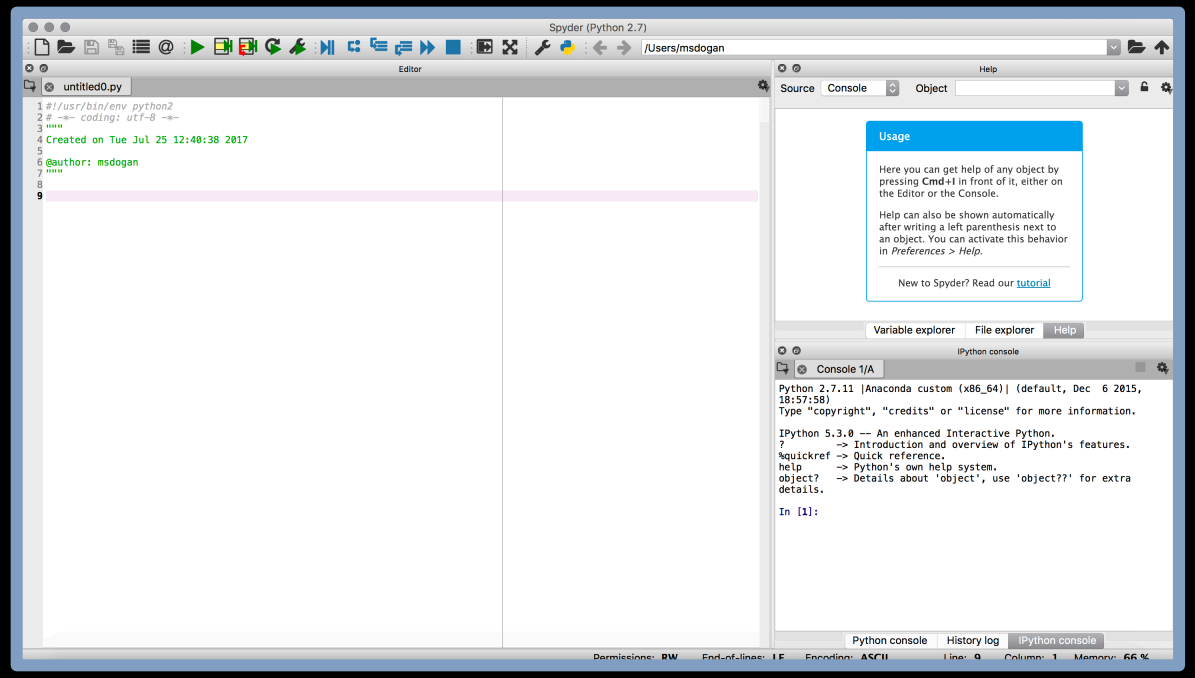
- Anaconda distribution includes almost all packages you will need to run Python
- Link to software (or just google Anaconda)

https://www.continuum.io/downloads

(Python 3+ is recommended)

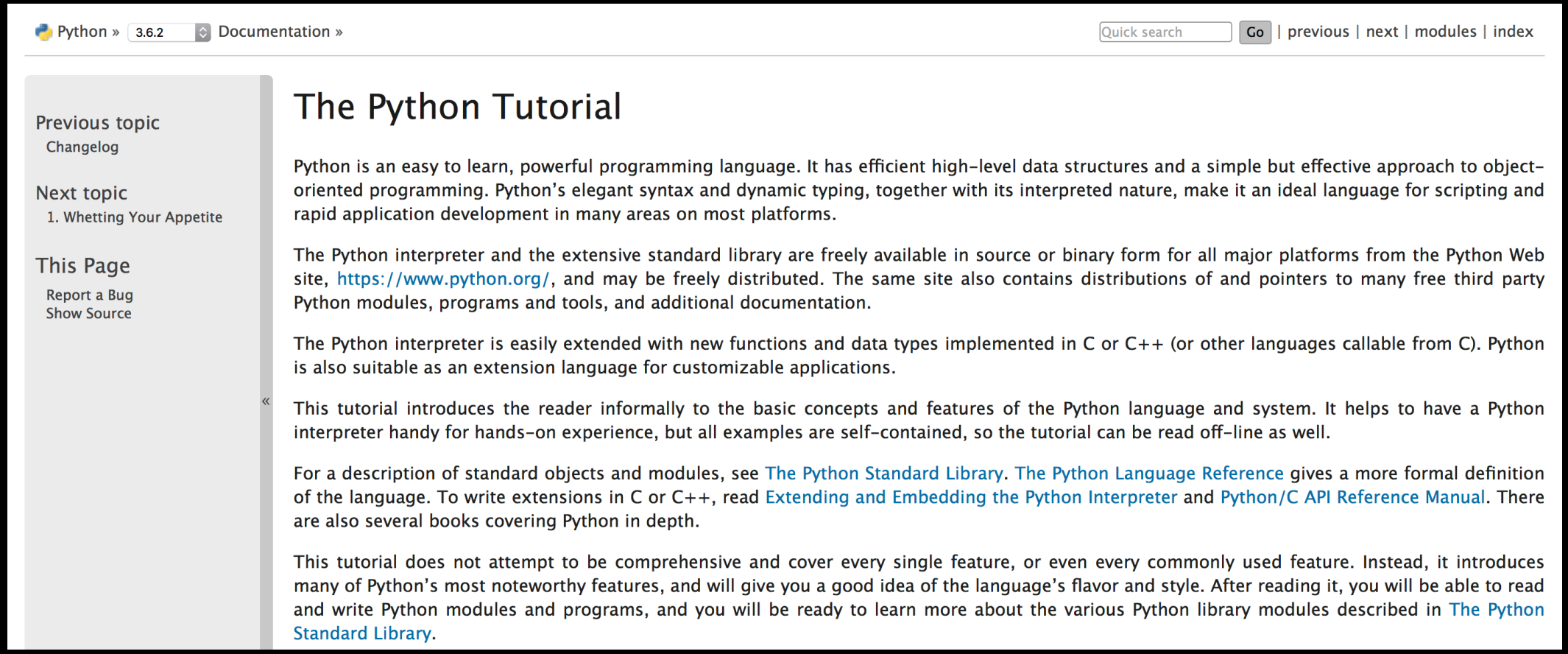
Using Python with Spyder IDE

- After installing Anaconda distribution open spyder
- Spyder is an open source cross-platform integrated development environment (IDE) for scientific programming in the Python language
- Similar to Matlab, there is script editor and console



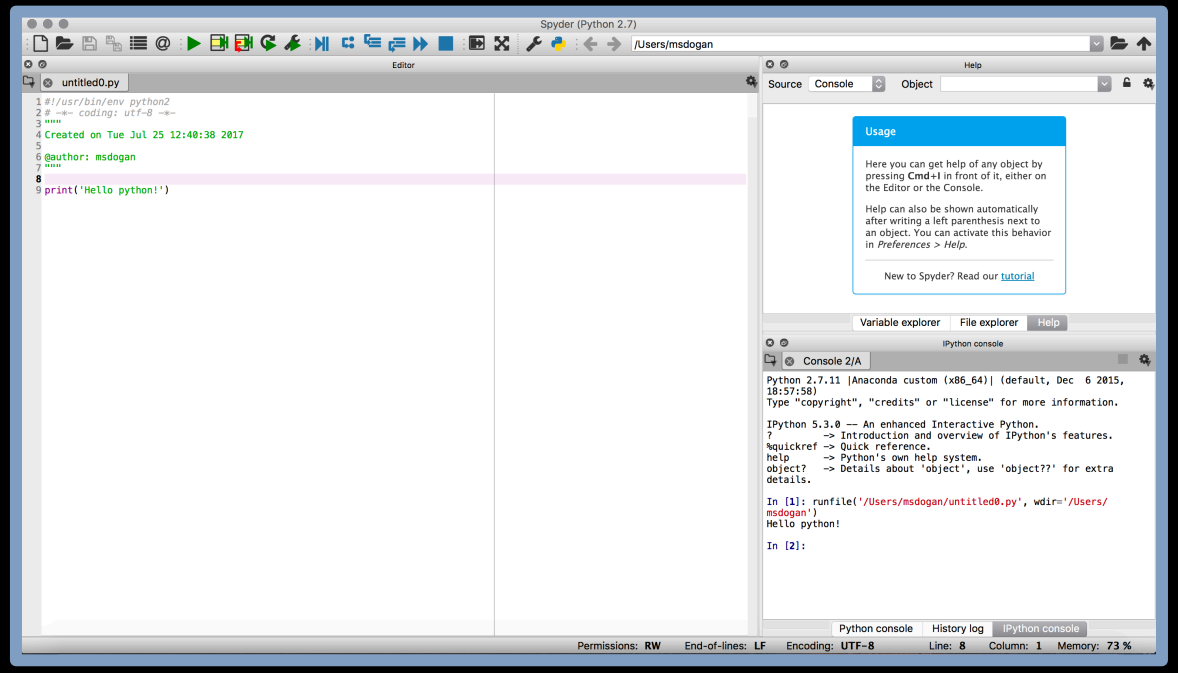
Official tutorial website

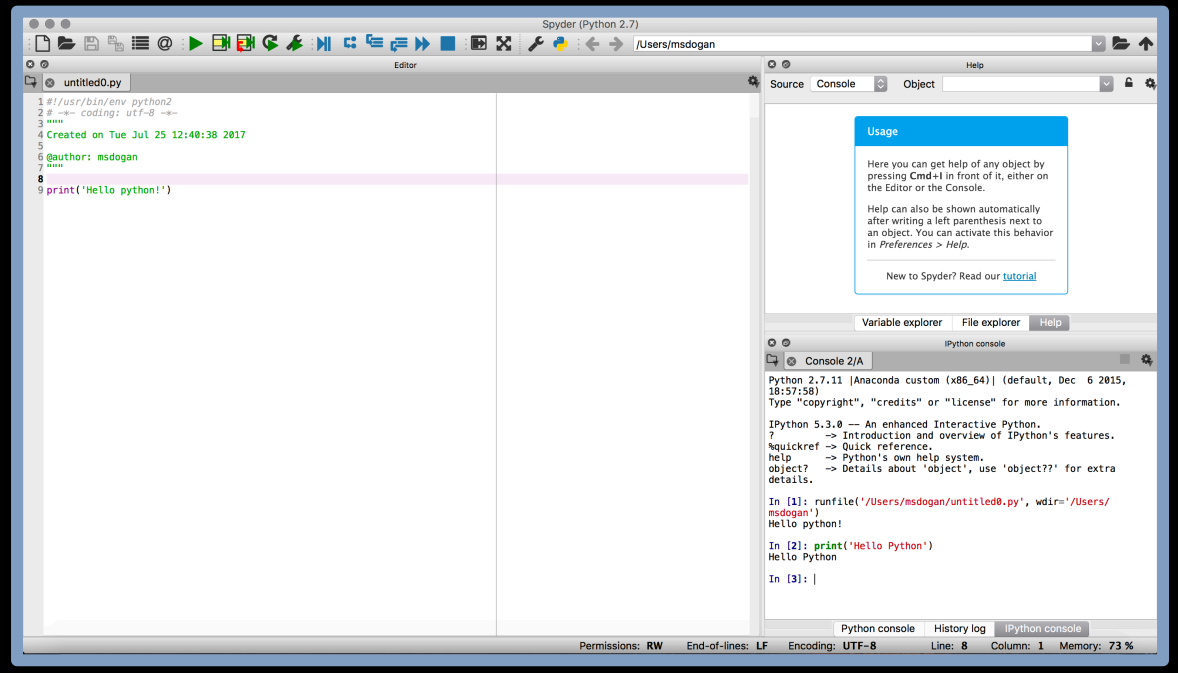
https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/index.html



First Command: Hello Python!

- Type `print('Hello Python')` to script editor and run (F5)
- Type `print('Hello Python')` to console and hit 'enter'

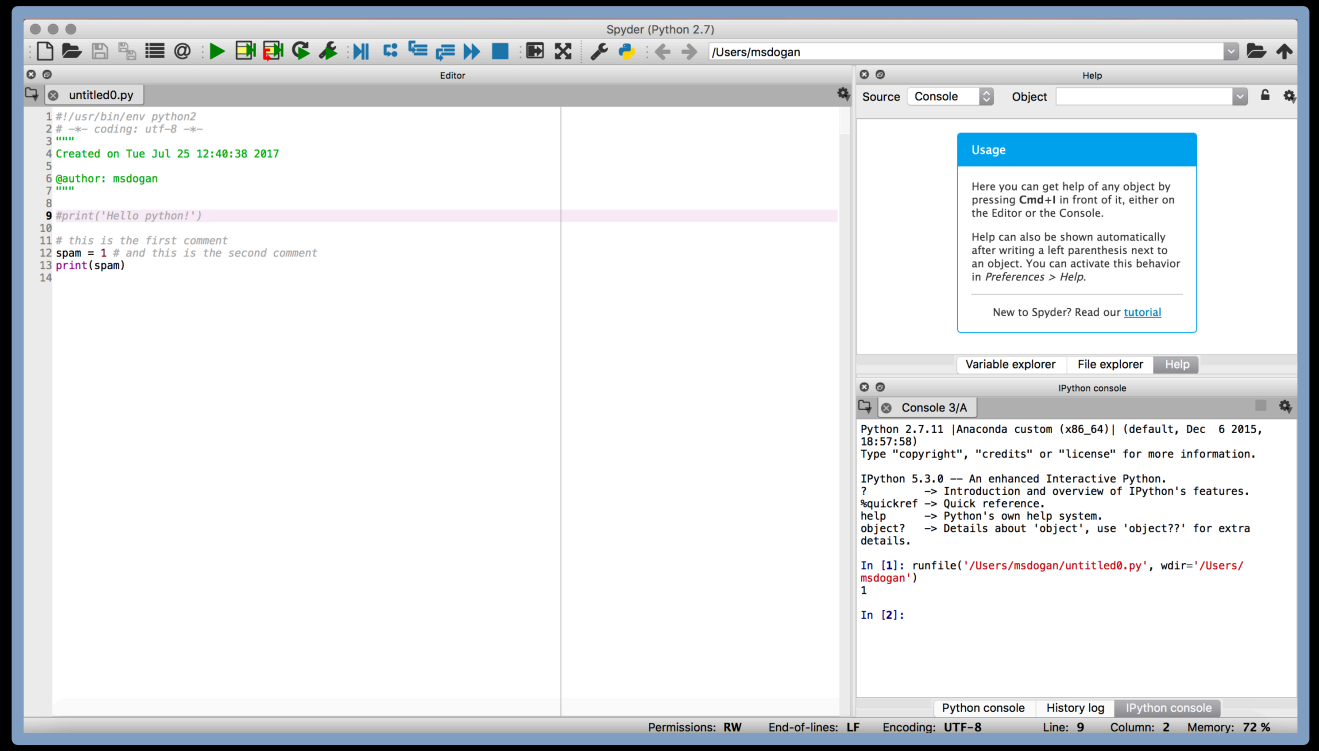




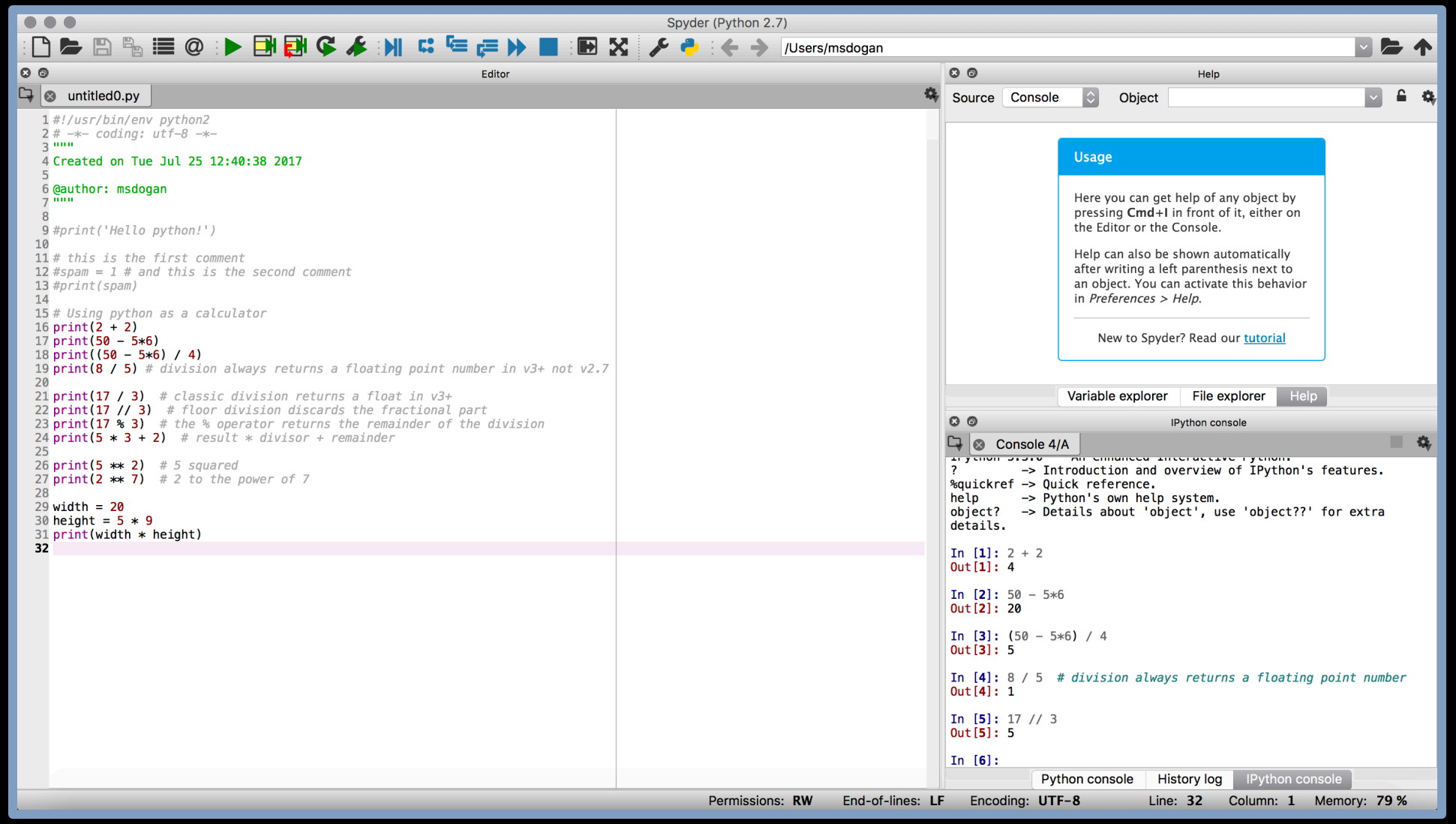
Script editor **Console**

Creating & printing variables & inserting comment (#)

```
# this is the first comment
spam = 1 # and this is the second comment
print(spam)
```

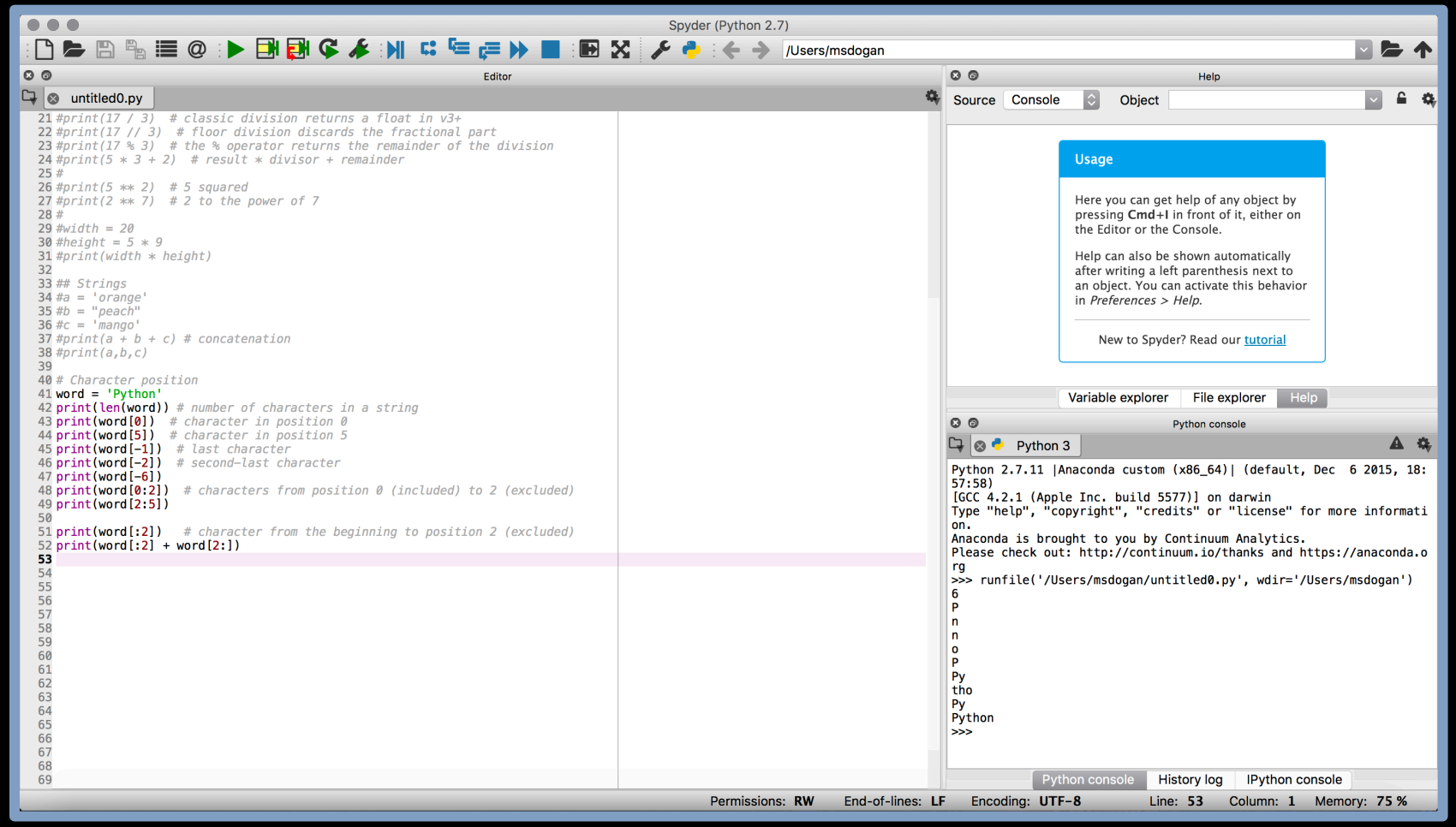


Using Python as a calculator



Strings

Strings must be enclosed in single ‘ ’ or double ” ” quotes

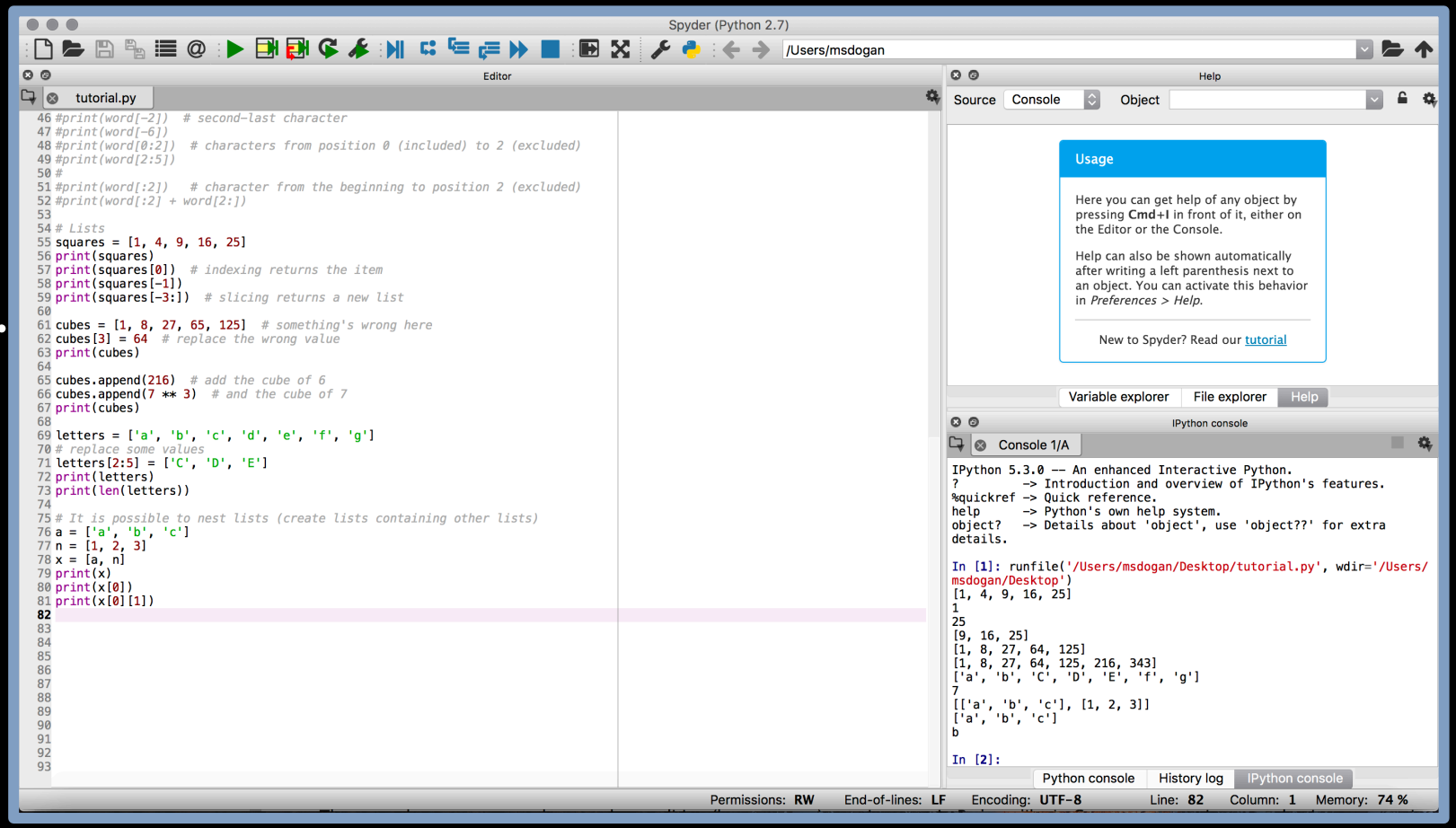


Ways to group, store and recall data

- List: `[ ]`
- Set: `{}`
- Dictionary: `{}`
- Array: `np.array()` (requires Numpy package)
- Dataframe: `pd.DataFrame()` (requires Pandas package)

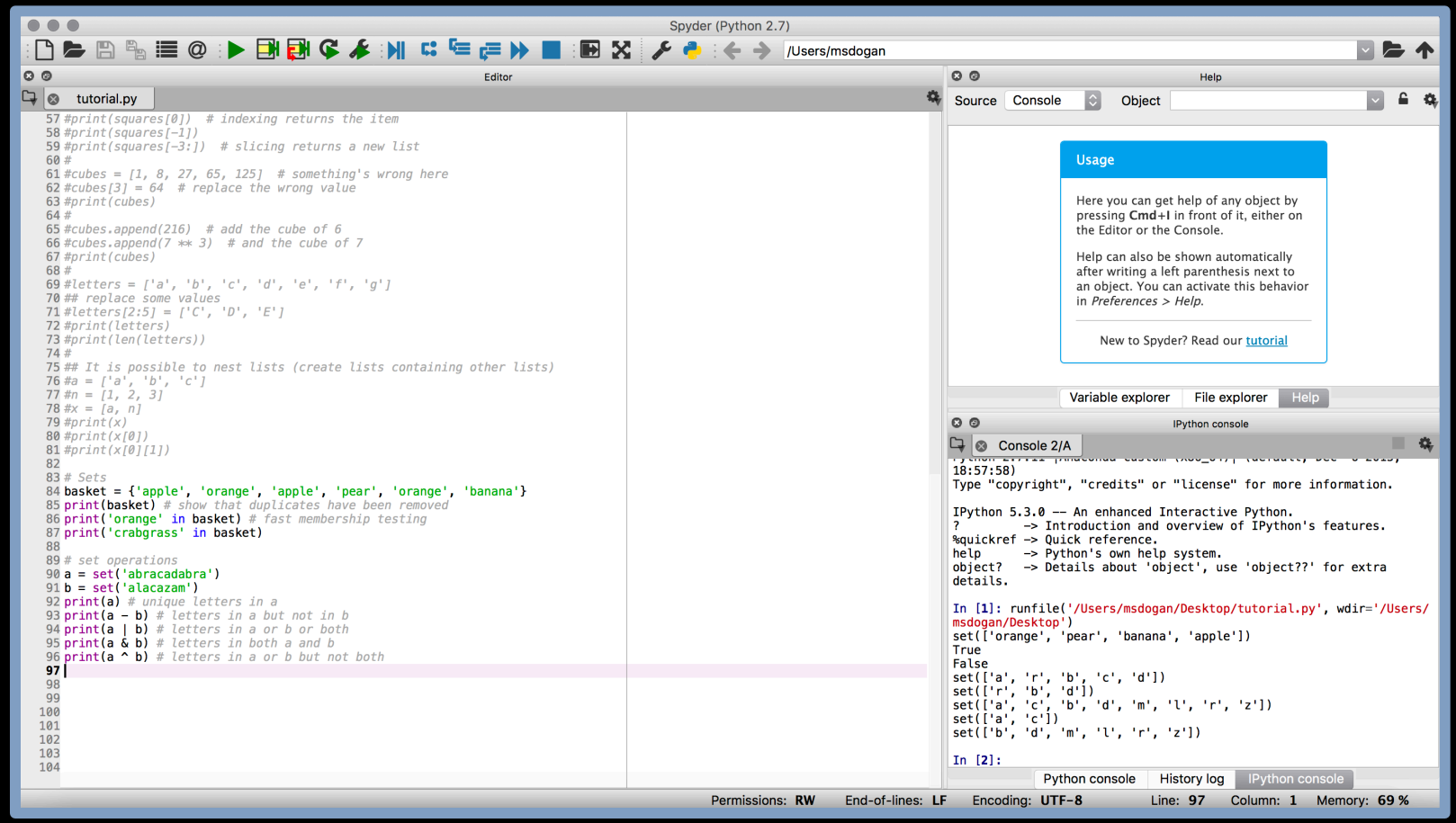
Lists

Python knows a number of *compound* data types, used to group together other values. The most versatile is the *list*, which can be written as a list of comma-separated values (items) between square brackets.



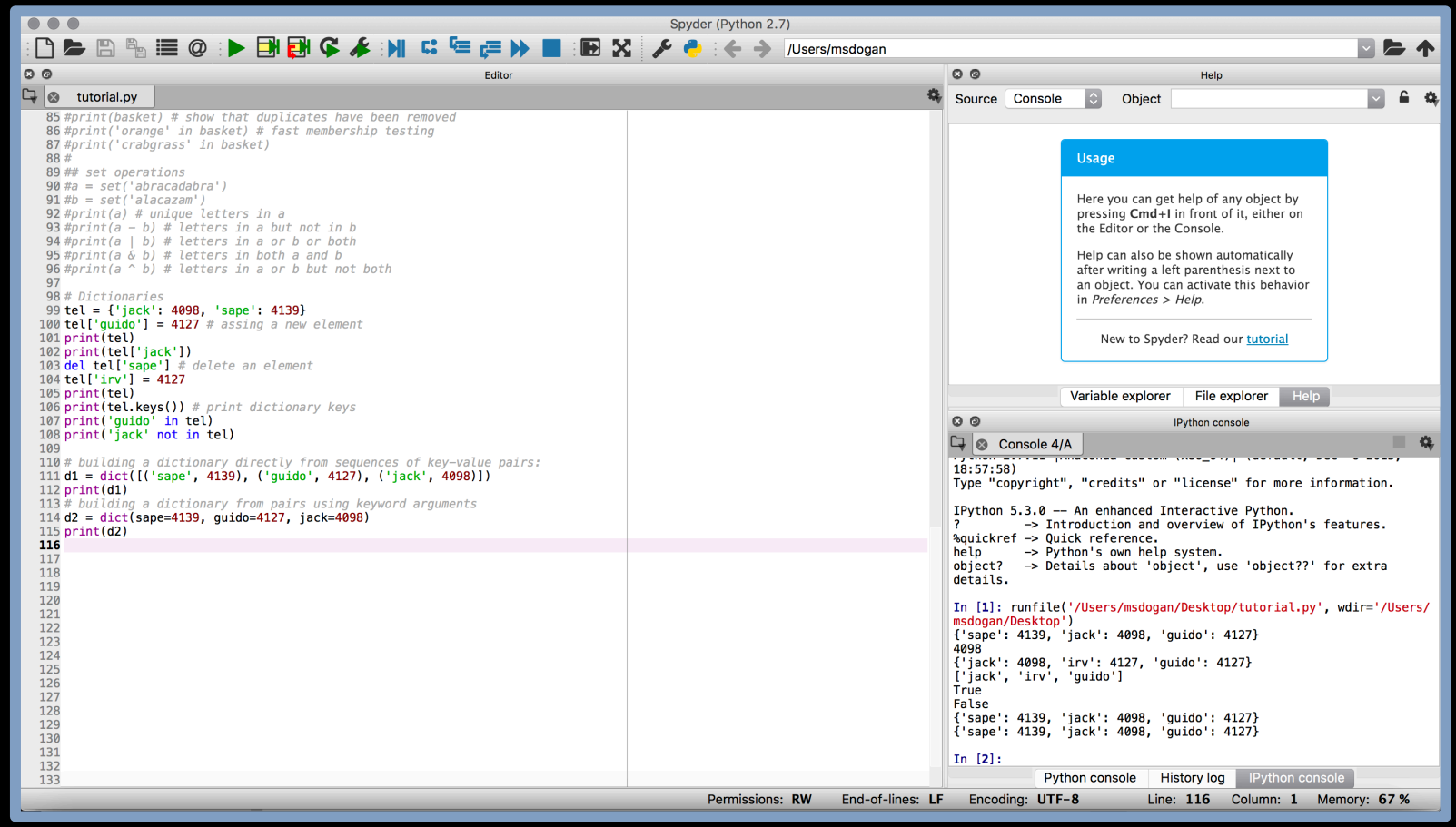
Sets

- A set is an unordered collection with no duplicate elements
- Sets support mathematical operations like union, intersection, difference, and symmetric difference



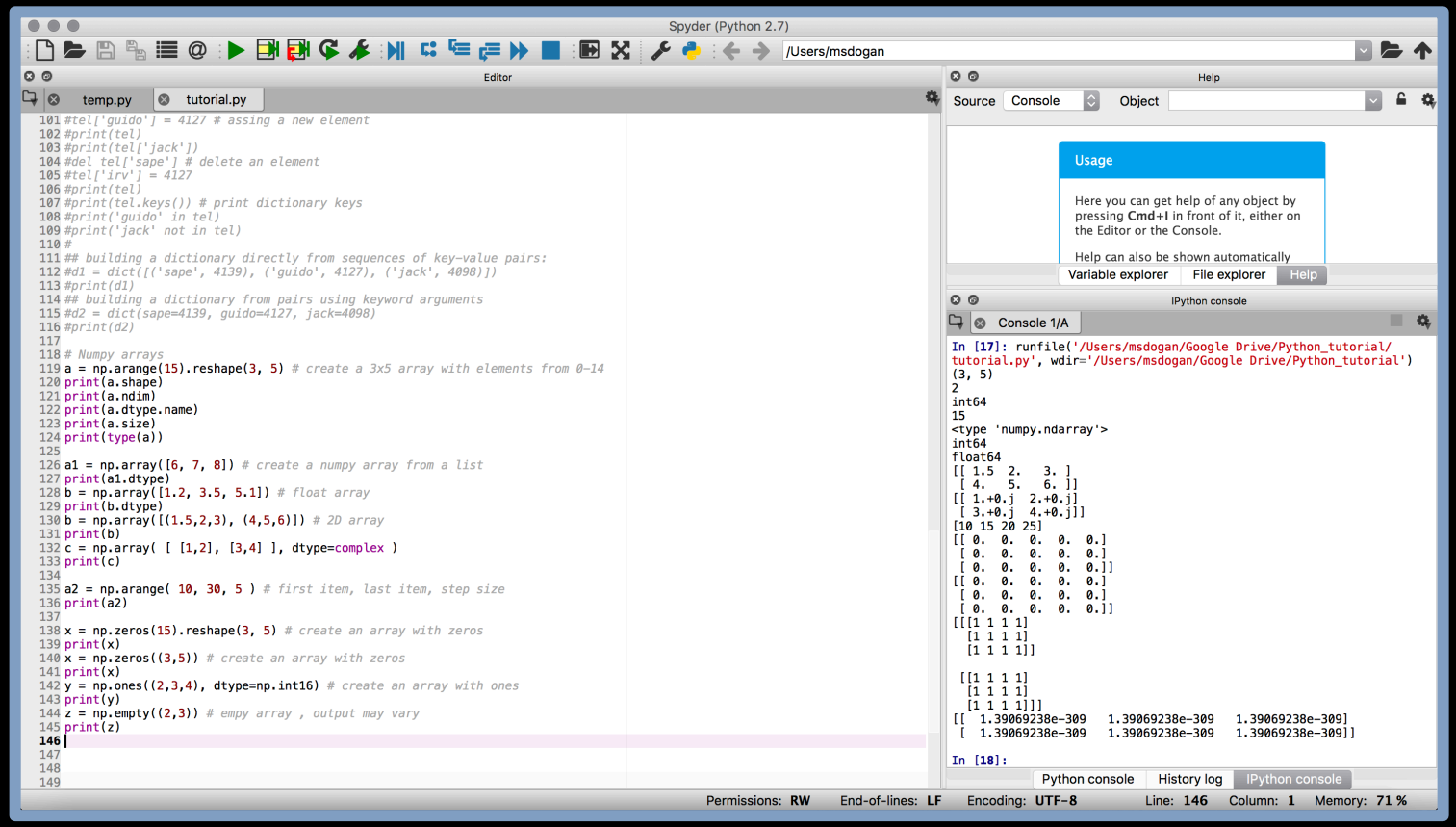
Dictionaries

- Dictionaries are indexed by *keys*
- The main operations on a dictionary are storing a value with some key and extracting the value given the key

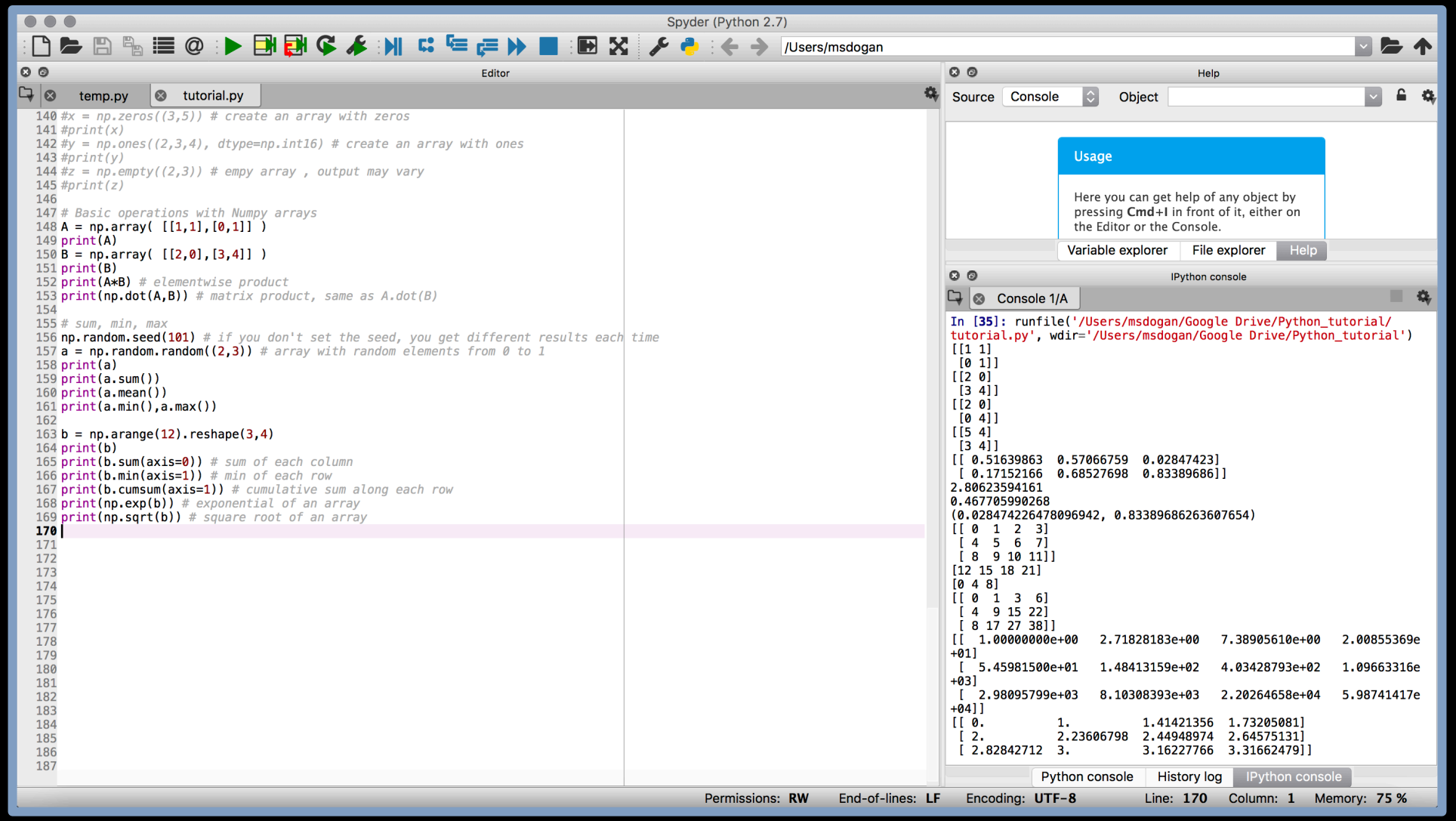


Numpy Arrays `np.array()`

- `import numpy as np`
- Homogeneous multidimensional array
- Table of elements, all of the same type

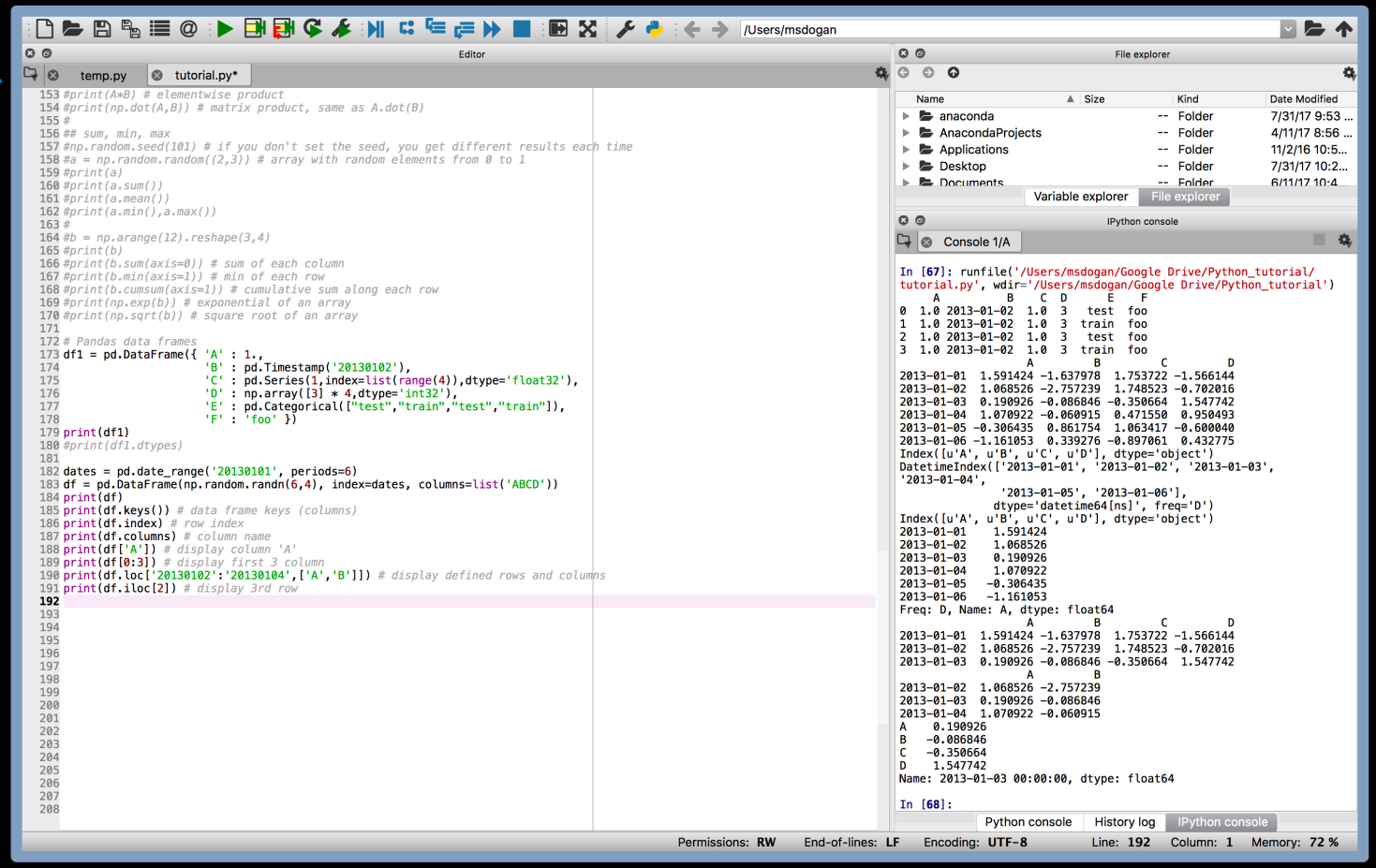


Some operations w/ Numpy arrays

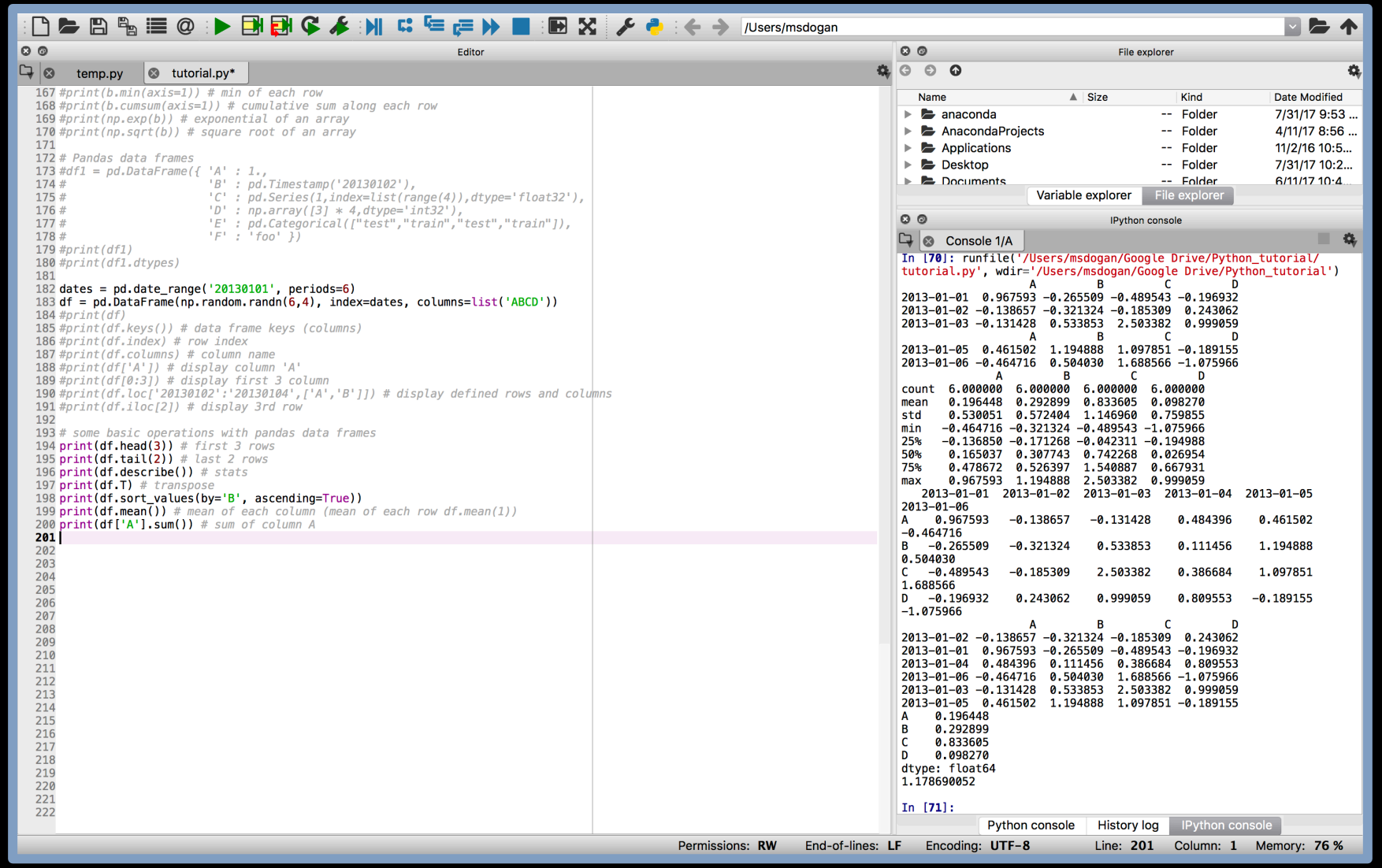


Pandas data frames `pd.DataFrame()`

- `import pandas as pd`
- Tabular data structure with labeled columns & rows
- Dictionary-like container for series objects

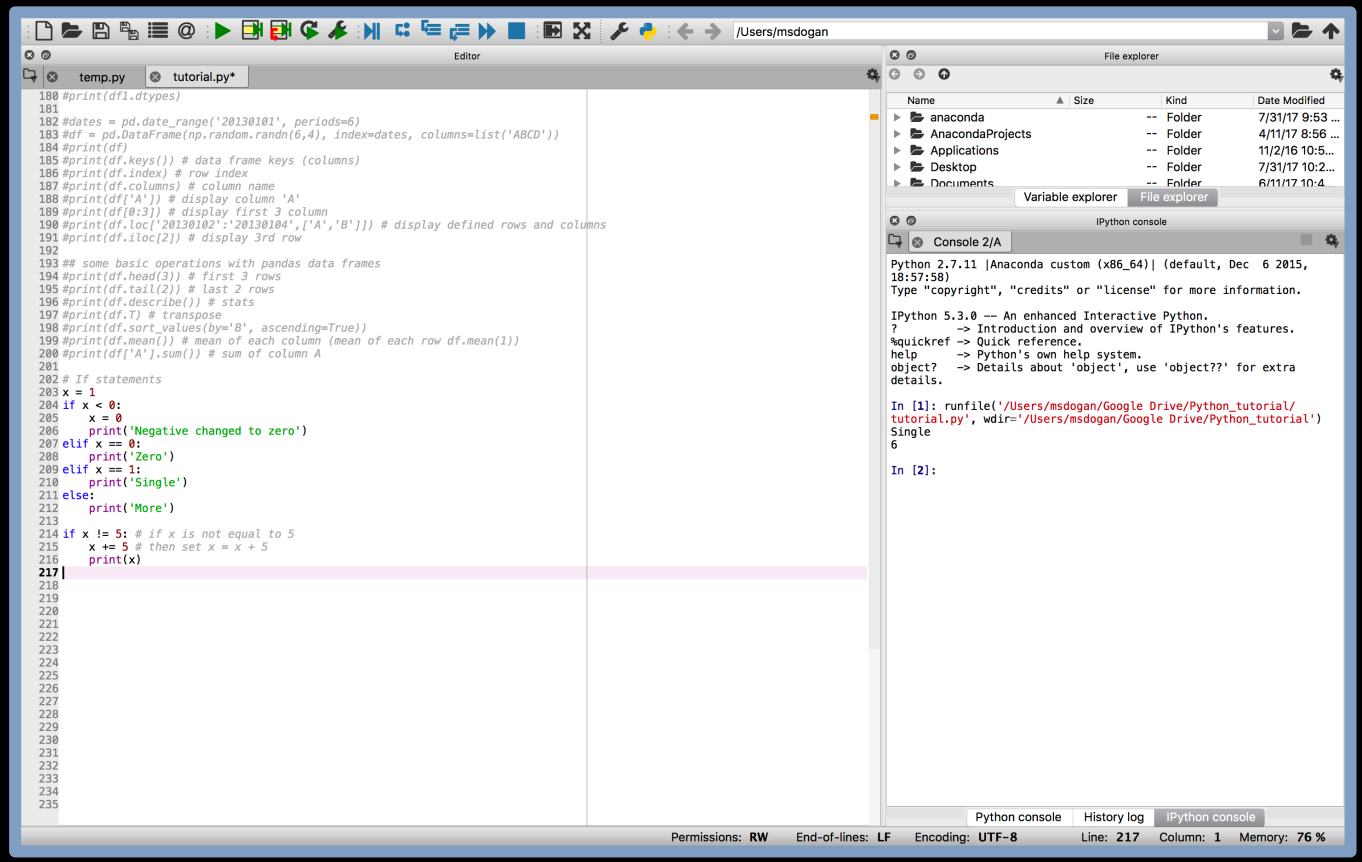


Some operations w/ Pandas dataframes



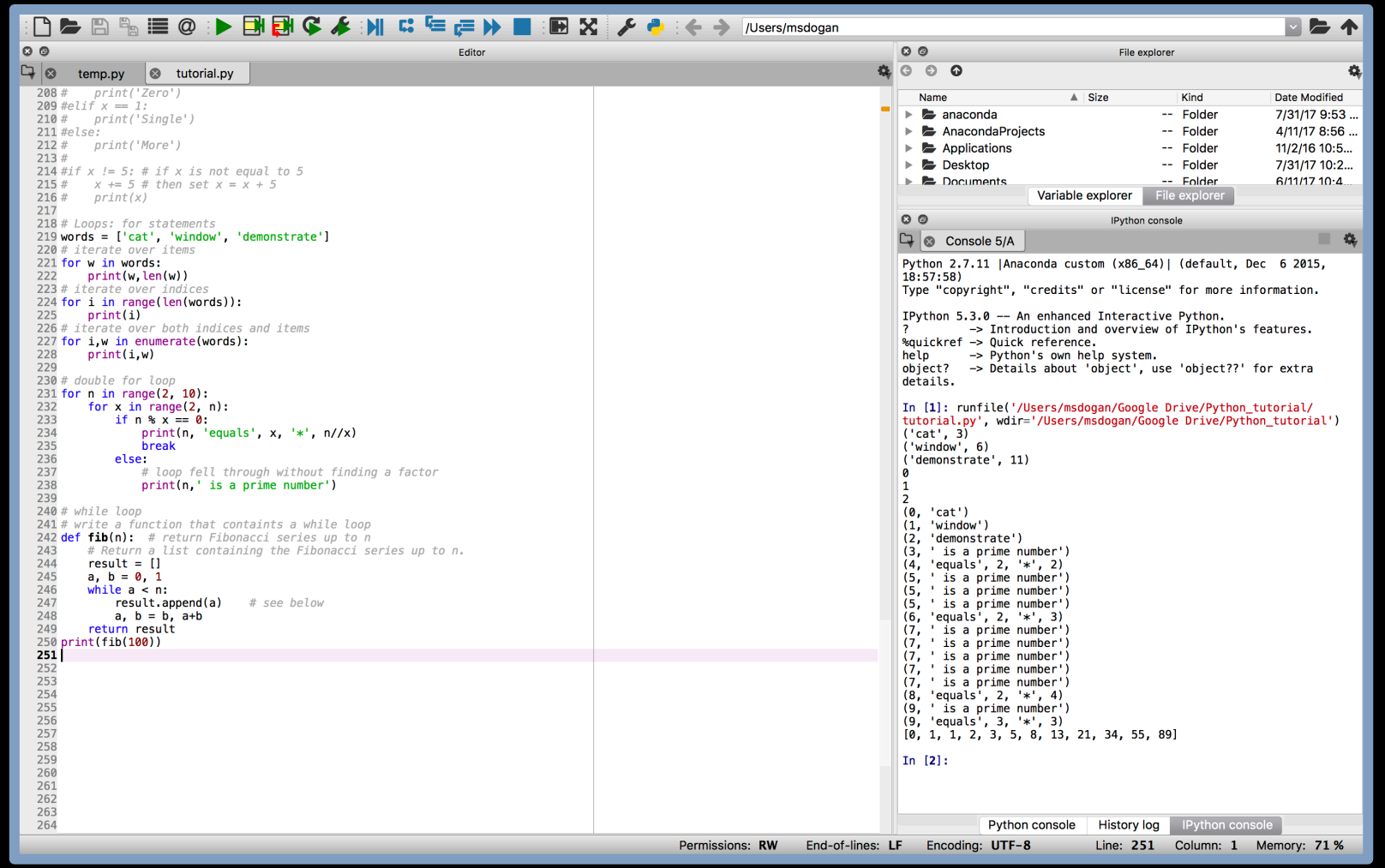
`if` statements: `if, elif, else`

- Less than: <
- Less than or equal: <=
- Greater than: >
- Greater than or equal: >=
- Equal: ==
- Not equal: != or <>



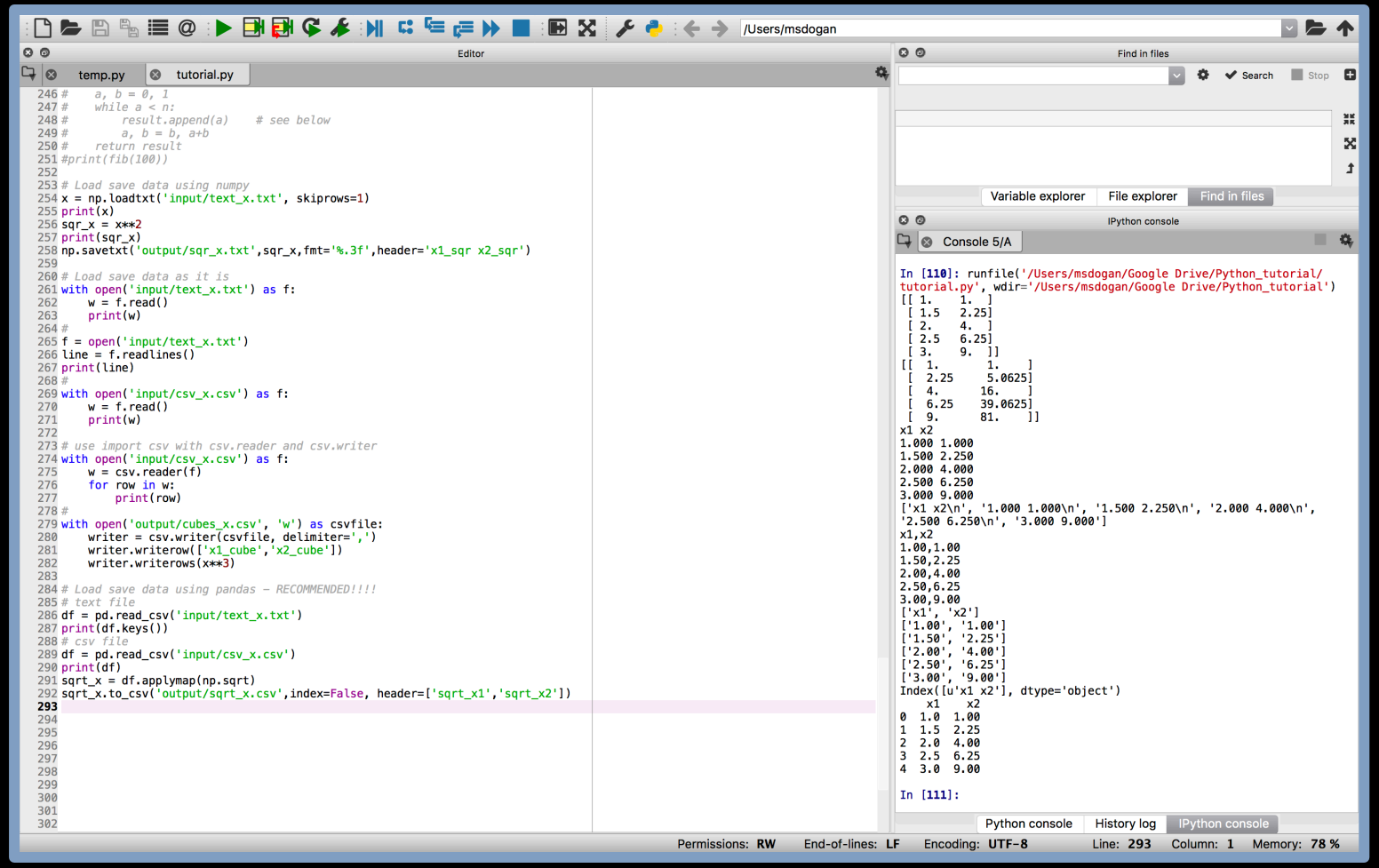
Loops: `for` & `while` statements

- For loops: Iterate over the items of any sequence (a list or a string), in the order that they appear in the sequence
- While loops: continue until exit criteria met



Loading & saving data

- Load / save data from / to `csv` and `txt`
- A few different ways: numpy, csv, and pandas



Data visualization

- `import matplotlib.pyplot as plt`
- Line plot
- Scatter plot
- Pie chart
- Bar chart
- Histogram
- Bonus: pandas plot