

Python 2 Versus Python 3

There are two major versions of Python that are widely used at the moment: Python 2 (more precisely, 2.7) and Python 3 (with the latest release being 3.5 at the time of writing). This sometimes leads to some confusion. Python 2 is no longer actively developed, but because Python 3 contains major changes, Python 2 code usually does not run on Python 3. If you are new to Python, or are starting a new project from scratch, we highly recommend using the latest version of Python 3 without changes. If you have a large codebase that you rely on that is written for Python 2, you are excused from upgrading for now. However, you should try to migrate to Python 3 as soon as possible. When writing any new code, it is for the most part quite easy to write code that runs under Python 2 and Python 3.² If you don't have to interface with legacy software, you should definitely use Python 3. All the code in this book is written in a way that works for both versions. However, the exact output might differ slightly under Python 2.

Versions Used in this Book

We are using the following versions of the previously mentioned libraries in this book:

In[9]:

```
import sys
print("Python version: {}".format(sys.version))

import pandas as pd
print("pandas version: {}".format(pd.__version__))

import matplotlib
print("matplotlib version: {}".format(matplotlib.__version__))

import numpy as np
print("NumPy version: {}".format(np.__version__))

import scipy as sp
print("SciPy version: {}".format(sp.__version__))

import IPython
print("IPython version: {}".format(IPython.__version__))

import sklearn
print("scikit-learn version: {}".format(sklearn.__version__))
```

² The `six` package can be very handy for that.