Python Docstrings

Instructors

Battista Biggio and Luca Didaci

M.Sc. in Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence University of Cagliari, Italy

Docstrings

- Strings used for code documentation
- Enable automatic generation of docs in different formats (HTML, etc.)
- Different formats for Python
 - numpydoc
 - ..



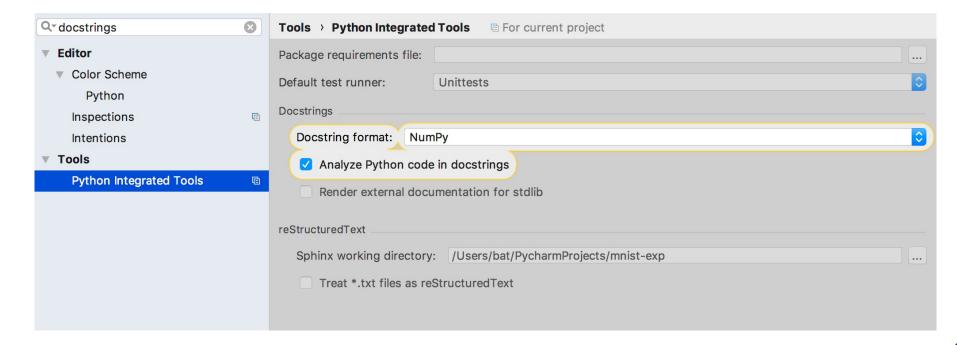
Required Packages

- In our practical sessions, we will use
 - **sphinx**: to automatically generate the documentation from code docstrings
 - **numpydoc**: as our standard to format our docstrings
 - https://numpydoc.readthedocs.io/en/latest/
 - sphinx_rtd_theme: HTML popular theme for docs



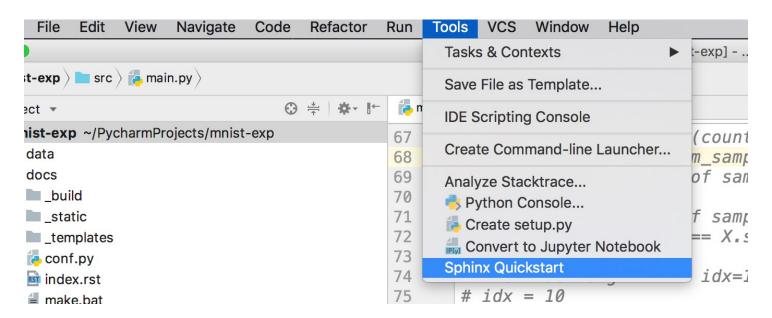
Configuring PyCharm

• Step 1: Set numpydoc as the default docstring format



Configuring PyCharm

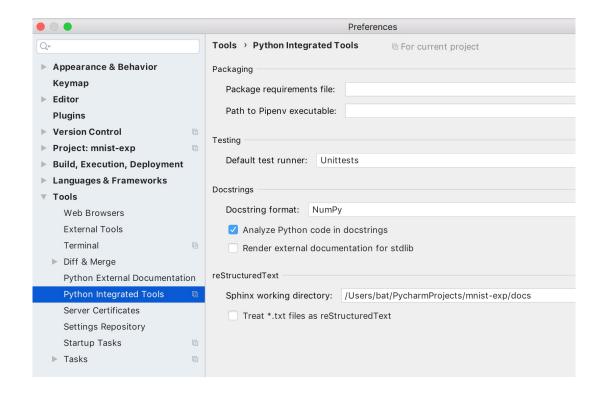
• Step 2: Set-up Sphinx configuration





Sphinx Quickstart

- Automatically configures sphinx environment
 - Set sphinx working directory «docs»
- Suggested preferences:
 - Do not separate source and build





Sphinx Quickstart

- The summary of your configuration is stored in **conf.py**
 - Set path to your src folder

```
# -- Path setup -----
import os
import sys
sys.path.insert(0, os.path.abspath('../src/'))
```

- To use the sphinx rtd theme, set:

```
html theme = 'sphinx rtd theme'
```

Add autodoc extension:

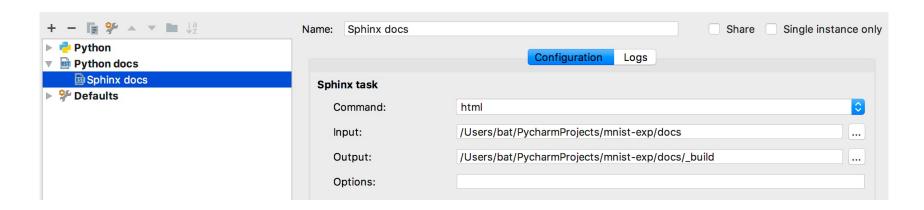
```
extensions = ['sphinx.ext.autodoc']
```

- Index.rst contains the name of the modules to be included
 - To add ours, let's just add the following commands into that file

```
.. automodule:: your_file_or_package_name
   :members:
   :undoc-members:
```

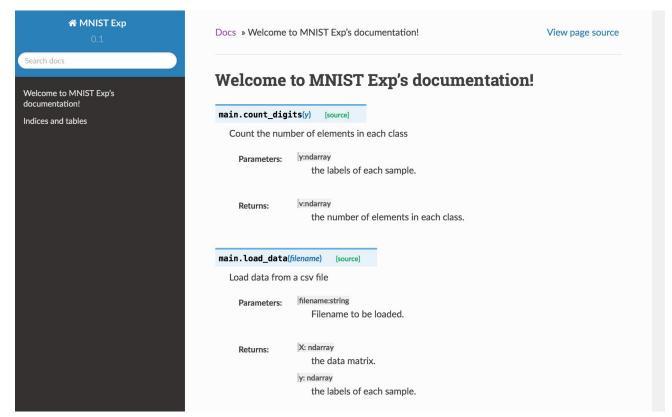
Run Configuration for Sphinx docs in PyCharm

- Run \rightarrow Edit Configurations
- Create a configuration 'Sphinx docs' from the defaults
- Set Input and Output folder
 - Output is just input_folder/_build





Finally...





See also...

- Blog post by Brendan Hasz
 - https://brendanhasz.github.io/2019/01/05/sphinx.html

