Programming with Python

Duke UPGG Scientific Computing Bootcamp
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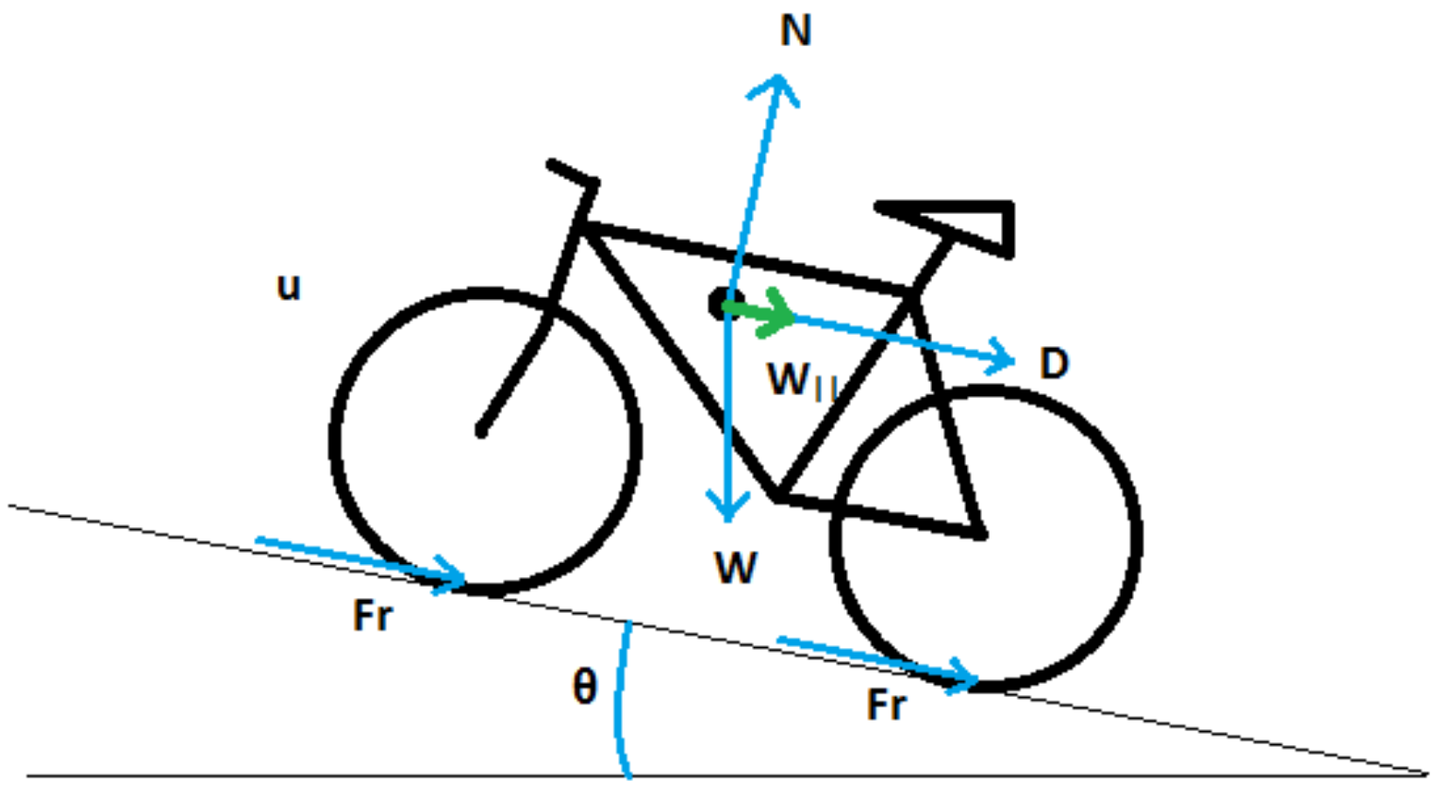
What book should I read?

How many books about riding a bike did you read?



“You can be a scientist in the science of bike ride mechanics and it still won’t help you one bit to do the actual thing.”

http://twonontechies.com/bicycles-can-help-you-learn-programming/

Why Python?

- We have to use *something*
- It's free, well-documented, and runs everywhere
- Large community among scientists
- Relatively easy to pick up, but programming is **hard**!

Goals

- Write and run programs in Python
- Understand basic data types and functions
- Work with files and libraries
- Know where to look for more help

*I know, I'll use **Python**!*

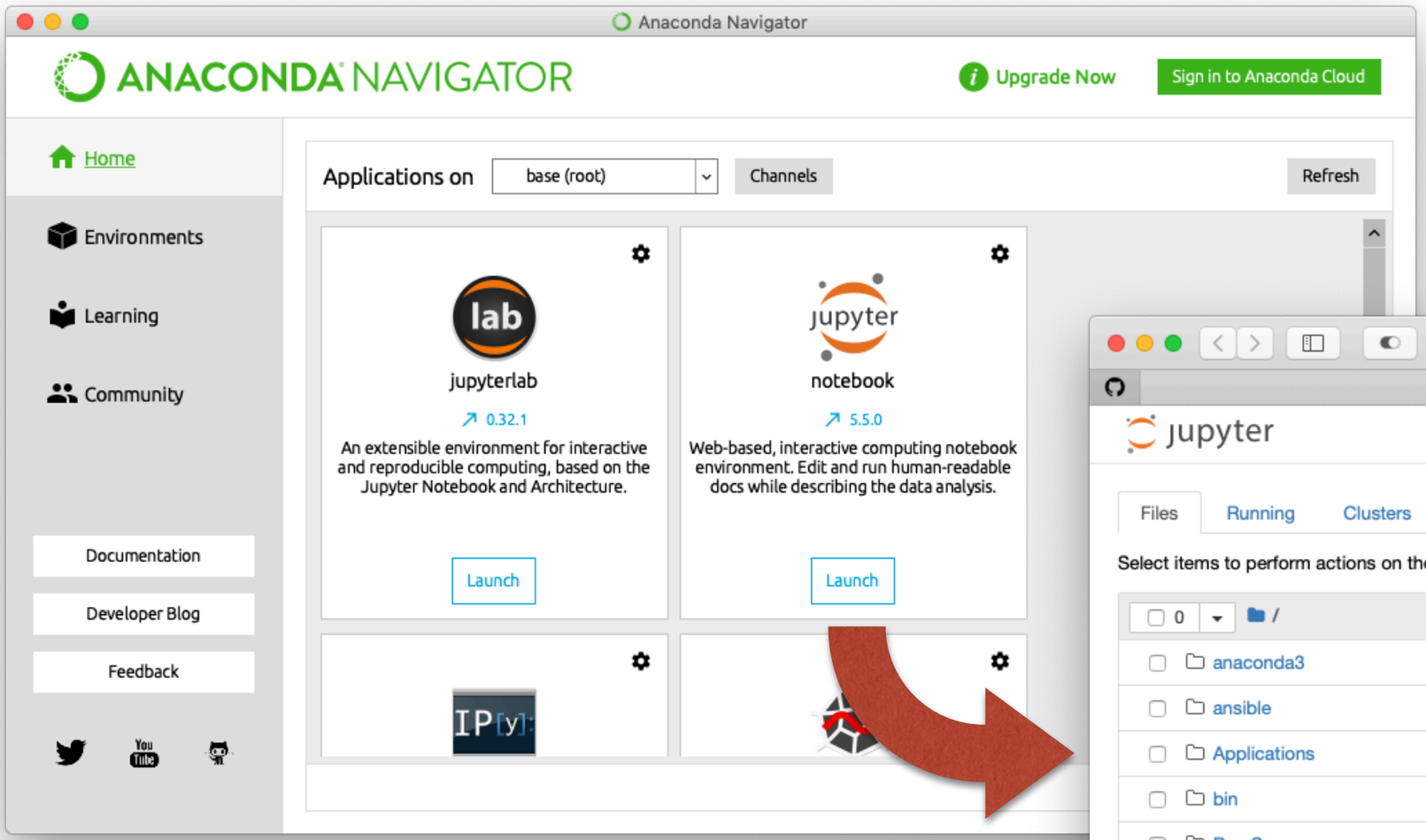
Download

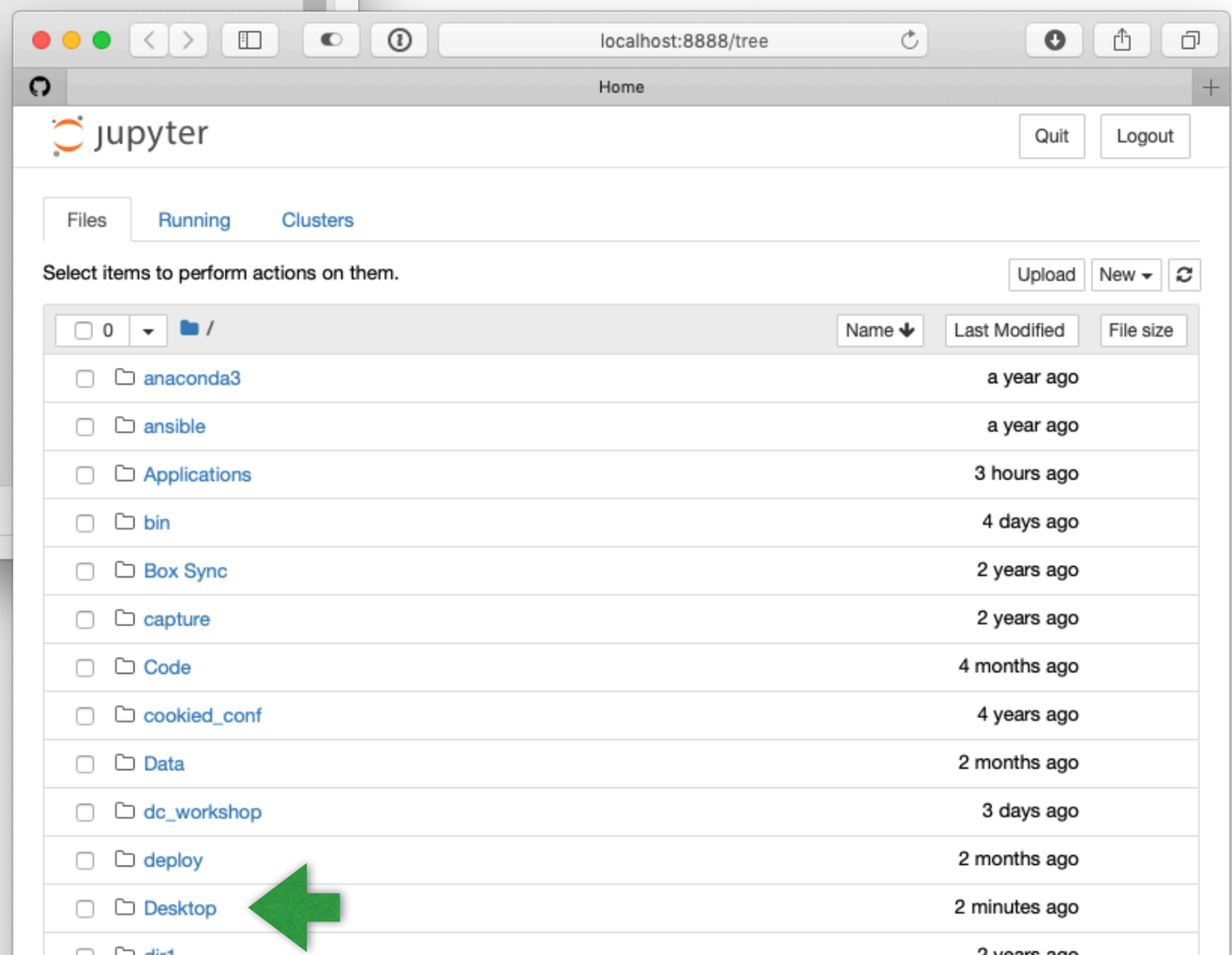
- Download the **python-fasta.zip** file from the course website - **Syllabus**.
- Unzip it and place on your Desktop:

```
python-fasta/
   ae.fa
   ls_orchid.fasta
```

1. Open **Anaconda Navigator** (installed with Anaconda)

2. Click to launch **Jupyter Notebook**





Begin Jupyter Notebook

Data Types

- Numeric:
    - Integer: 1, 76, 400
    - Float: -1.2, 0.5, 3.1415926 (Use a decimal point)
    - Boolean: True, False
- Text:
    - Strings: ‘ACTGACAG' (Wrap in quotes)

Strings

- Strings can be created with quotes or double quotes:

```
name = 'Daniel'
```

- Access individual letters as strings with [] (starting at 0)

```
name[0] # D
name[1] # a
```

- Check if a letter exists in a string

```
'a' in name # True
'a' not in name # False
```

Variables

- Assign variables with equals

```
x = 3
```

- Access variables by name

```
print x # 3
```

- Variables work like sticky notes, they’re just a label on top of a value

What do we know?

- Our sequence is a string, in **seq10**
- Strings are sequences of characters, each at a numbered position (starting from 0)
- We can extract characters as strings with square brackets **[ ]**
- We can combine strings together with **+**

Exercise: Reverse

- Write some code that **reverses** the sequence in seq.
- It should

1. Create an empty string variable **rev**

```
rev = ''
```

2. Loop over the items in **seq**, adding these to rev in reversed order

3. Print the contents of **rev**

Loops

- Write a loop with **for** item **in** collection:

```
for letter in word:
    print letter
```

- Always put a colon at the end of the line, indented lines are run for every item in the collection

Complementing

- We can loop over all the bases in a sequence
- Each base has a complement that we should substitute:
- We can use a **Dictionary** to store this mapping.

A	→	T
C	→	G
T	→	A
G	→	C

Dictionaries and Lists

- Create dicts with {}, lists with []

```
nucs = {'A': 5, 'C': 4, 'T': 8}
counts = [5,4,8]
```

- Both accessed with [] - dicts by key, lists by index

```
nucs['A'] # 5
counts[0] # 5

nucs['A'] = 3 # now 3
counts[0] = 3 # now 3
```

GC-content percentage

- Calculated as **(G + C) / (A + T + G + C)**
- Create a GC count variable and an ATGC count variable
- Loop over each base in the sequence
    - If G, add 1 to GC count
    - If C add 1 to GC count
    - For everything, add 1 to ATGC count

Conditionals

```
# Test c1 for True or False
if c1:
    print "c1 was True"
# c1 was False, check c2
elif c2:
    print "c1 False but c2 True"
# All checks False
else:
    print "Both False"
```

Exercise: Functions

```
bases = 'adenine cytosine guanine thymine'
```

Write some code that:

- Makes a **list** of these bases from the string
- **Uppercases** the names (e.g. ['ADENINE', ...])
- **Reverse**s the order (e.g. ['THYMINE',...])

Hint: Use `help(str)` and `help(list)` to see what functions are available for strings and lists

Bonus: Write a for loop to print the first letter of each (e.g. A, C, ...)

Exercise

- Strings can be reversed with this special slicing notation: [::-1]

```
s = 'abc'
r = s[::-1]
print(r)
```

```
cba
```

- Update `reverse()` function to use `[::-1]` instead of a loop.

- Do we need to do anything to `complement()`?
  What about `reverse_complement()`?

Functions

- Calling functions: `length = len('abc')`
- Defining functions:

```
def double(x):
    return x * 2
```

- Composing functions:

```
def reverse_complement(seq):
    return reverse(complement(seq))
```

- Avoid using global variables in functions

Exercise

- Write a function, `read_fasta(filename)` that:
  - Takes 1 argument: `filename`
    - Reads the file line-by-line
    - Strips/combines the lines into one long line
    - Skips the line if it contains a >
- Hint: `if not 'i' in ‘team':`

Reading files

- Open a file with the `open()` function:

```
f = open('ae.fa')
```

- Loop over lines, and `strip()` each one

```
for line in f:
    print line.strip()
```

- Close with `f.close()`

Scripts

- Put code in a file, give it the .py extension
- Read command line-arguments from sys.argv:

```
import sys
print sys.argv[0]
print sys.argv[1]

$ python script.py hello
script.py
hello
```

- Check the length of `sys.argv` to be helpful!