Programming Principles in Python (CSCI 503)

Introduction

Dr. David Koop

Why Python?

Productivity

Libraries, Libraries, Libraries

What about speed?

Administrivia

- Course Web Site
- TA: Palak Jalota (Blackboard Collaborate)
- Syllabus
  - Plagiarism
  - Accommodations
- Assignments
- Tests: 2 (Feb. 17, Mar. 29) and Final (Apr. 26)

Academic Honesty

- **Do not cheat!**
- You will receive a **zero** for any assignment/exam/etc. where cheating has occurred.
- Misconduct is reported through the university's system
- You **may** discuss problems and approaches with other students
- You **may not** copy or transcribe code from another source

Online Synchronous Course

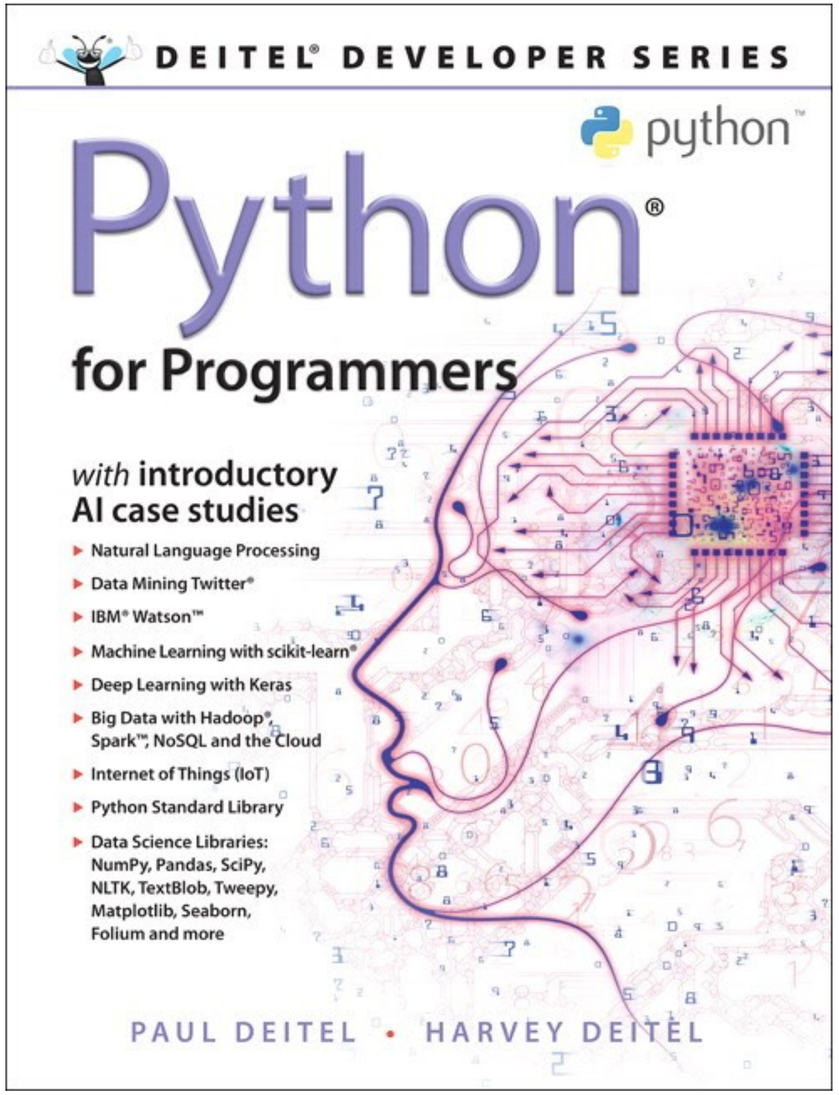
- Lectures will be 2:00-3:15pm MW via Zoom (login via Blackboard)
  - Better for learning if you are engaged
  - **Ask questions**
  - Please **mute** your microphone if you are not asking a question or discussing
  - Please advise me of any issues
- Slides will be posted to the course website
- Recordings will be made available via Blackboard

Office Hours & Email

- Ms. Jalota's office hours will be held via Blackboard Collaborate
  - TuTh: 11:00am-2pm
- Prof. Koop's office hours will be held via Zoom via Blackboard
  - MW: 10:30-11:30am, or by appointment (Prof. Koop's Office Hours)
- You do not need an appointment to join during scheduled office hours
- If you need an appointment outside of those times, please email me with **details** about what you wish to discuss and we can set up a time
- Many questions can be answered via email. **Please consider writing an email before scheduling a meeting.**

Course Material

- Textbook:
  - Recommended: Python for Programmers
  - Good overview + data science examples
- Many other resources are available:
  - https://wiki.python.org/moin/BeginnersGuide
  - https://wiki.python.org/moin/IntroductoryBooks
  - http://www.pythontutor.com
  - https://www.python-course.eu
  - https://software-carpentry.org/lessons/



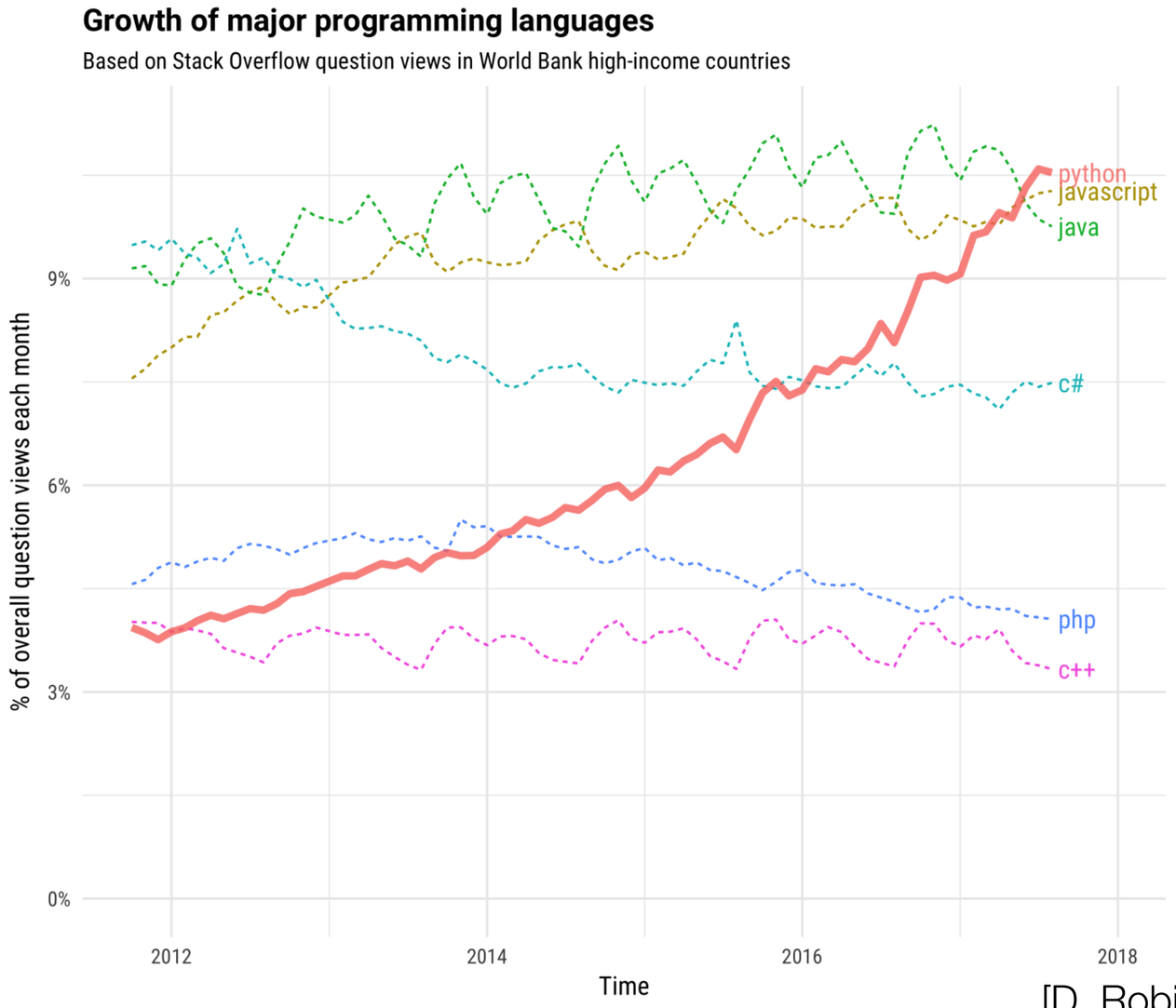
Course Material

- Software:
  - Anaconda Python Distribution (https://www.continuum.io/downloads): makes installing python packages easier
  - Jupyter Notebook: Web-based interface for interactively writing & executing Python code
  - JupyterLab: An updated web-based interface that includes the notebook and other cool features
  - JupyterHub: Access everything through a server

Python

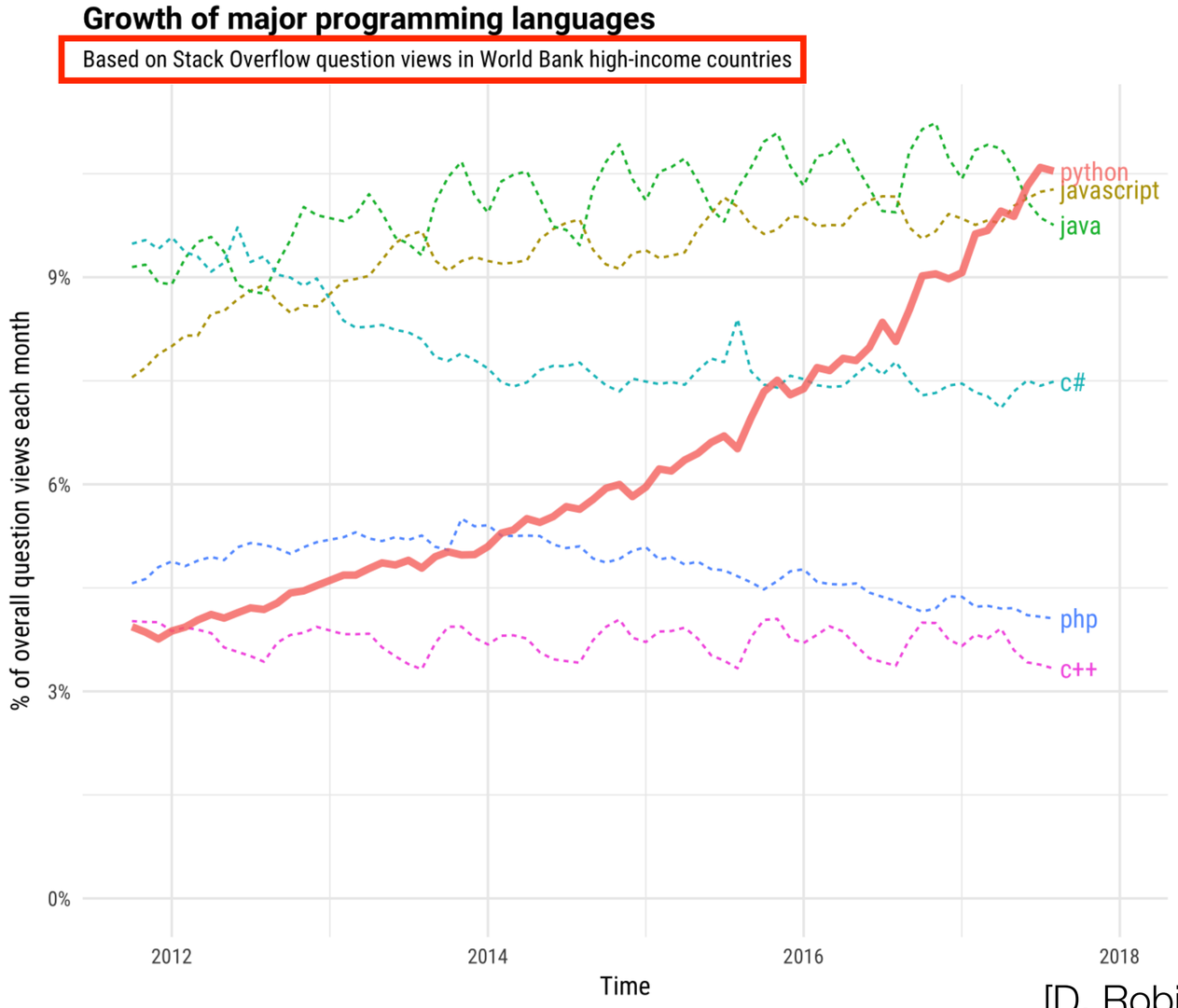
- Started in December 1989 by Guido van Rossum
- “Python has surpassed Java as the top language used to introduce U.S. students to programming…” (ComputerWorld, 2014)
- Python is also a top language for data science
- High-level, interpreted language
- Supports multiple paradigms (OOP, procedural, functional)
- Help programmers write **readable** code, use less code to do more
- Lots of libraries for python
- Designed to be extensible, easy to wrap code from other languages like C/C++
- Open-source with a large, passionate community

Python adoption is increasing



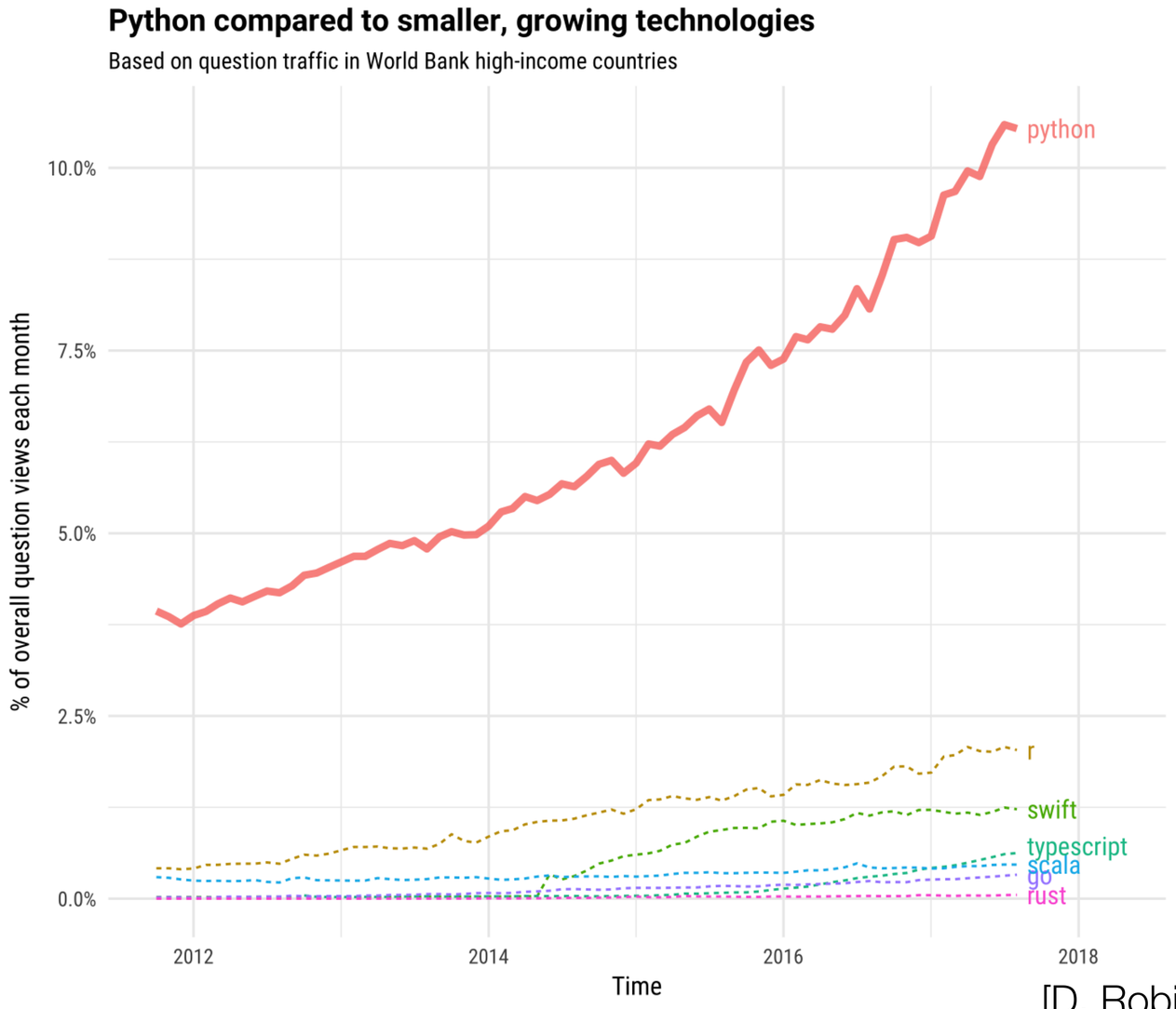
[D. Robinson, StackOverflow blog, 2017]

Python adoption is increasing



[D. Robinson, StackOverflow blog, 2017]

Comparison to smaller, growing technologies



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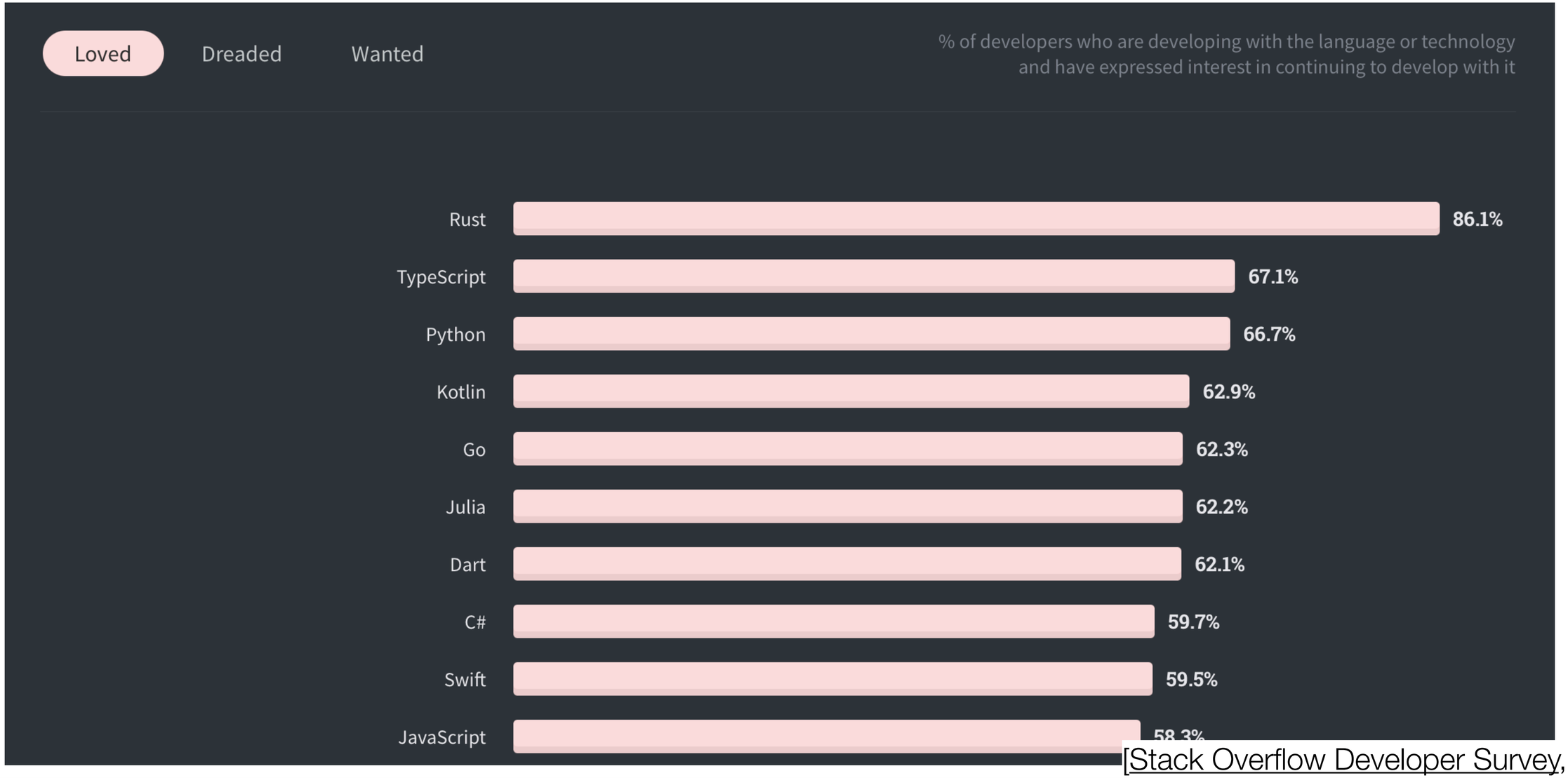
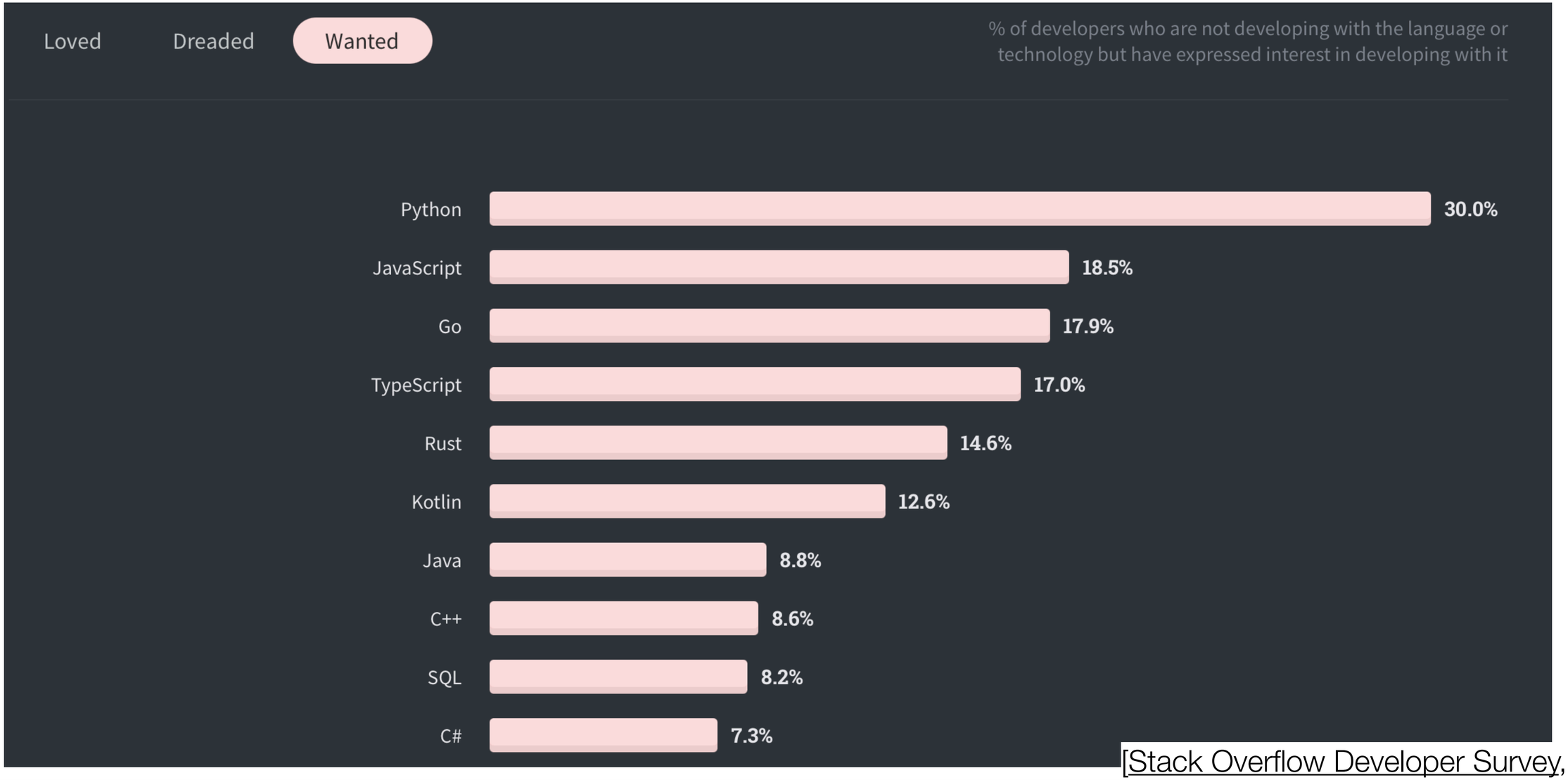
StackOverflow Languages



[Stack Overflow Developer Survey, 2020]

StackOverflow Languages



[Stack Overflow Developer Survey, 2020]

Modes of Computation

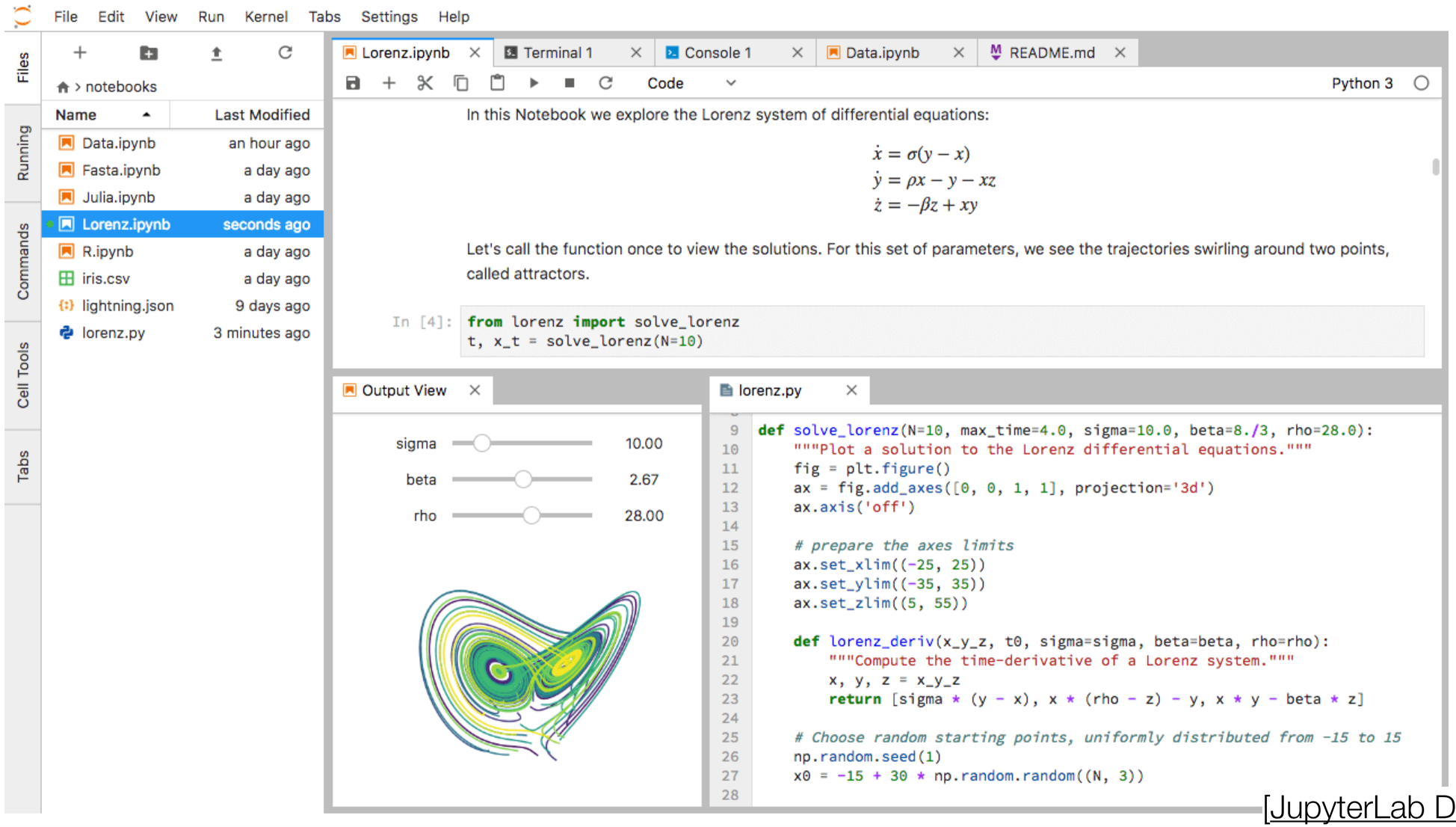
- Python is **interpreted**: you can run one line at a line without compiling
- Interpreter in the Shell
  - Execute line by line
  - Hard to structure loops
  - Usually execute whole files (called scripts) and edit those files
- Notebook
  - Richer results (e.g. images, tables)
  - Can more easily edit past code
  - Re-execute any cell, whenever

Python Differences

- Dynamic Typing
  - A variable does not have a fixed type
  - Example: `a = 1; a = "abc"`
- Indentation
  - Braces define blocks in Java, good style is to indent but not required
  - Indentation is critical in Python

```
z = 20
if x > 0:
    if y > 0:
        z = 100
else:
    z = 10
```

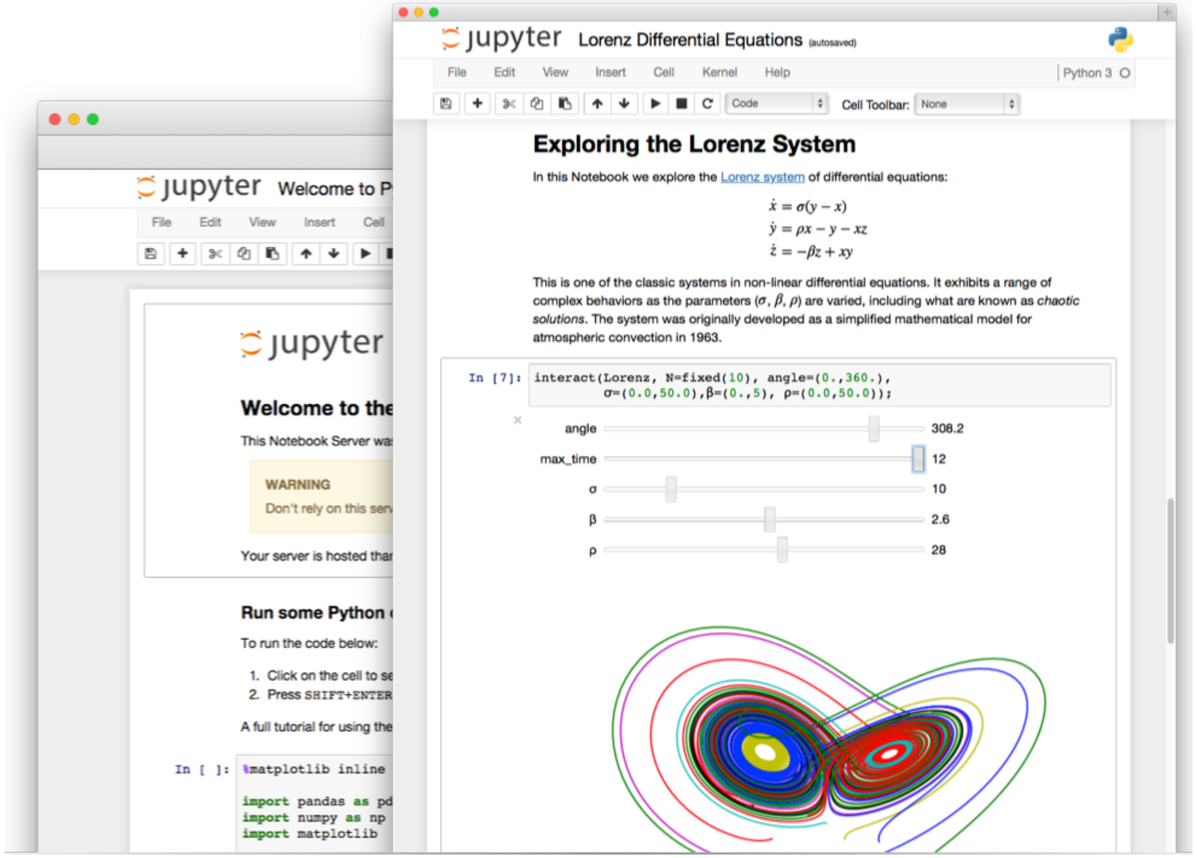
JupyterLab and Jupyter Notebooks



[JupyterLab Documentation]

Jupyter Notebooks

- Display rich representations and text
- Uses Web technology
- Cell-based
- Built-in editor
- GitHub displays notebooks



[Jupyter]

Jupyter Notebooks

- An interactive programming environment
- Runs in your web browser
- Displays results (even interactive maps) inline
- Originally designed for Python
- Supports other languages, too
- You decide how to divide code into executable cells
- Shift+Enter to execute a cell

Notebooks in JupyterLab

- Directory view on left
- Create new notebooks using "+" button, "New" from the File menu, or Launcher window
  - Notebook originally has name "Untitled"
  - Click on "Untitled" to change the name (do this!)
- Save a notebook using the command under the File menu
- Shutting down the notebook — use Close and Shutdown Kernel
  - Web browser is **interface** to display code and results
  - **Kernel** actually runs the code: usually see messages in a console/terminal window

Notebooks in JupyterLab

- Open a notebook by going back to the file browser and clicking on it like you would in a desktop view
- Past results are displayed—does not mean they are loaded in memory
- Use "Run All" or "Run All Above" to re-execute past work
  - If you shut down the kernel, all of the data and variables you defined need to be redefined (so you need to re-run all)
  - **Watch Out—Order Matters**: If you went back and re-executed cells in a different order than they are shown, doing "Run All" may not produce the same results!
- Edit mode (green) versus Command mode (blue == **Be Careful**)
- Learn keyboard shortcuts

Notebooks in JupyterLab

- Can write code or plain text (can be styled Markdown)
  - Choose the type of cell using the dropdown menu
- Cells break up your code, but all data is **global**
  - Defining a variable `a` in one cell means that variable is accessible in **any** other cell
  - This includes cells **above** the cell `a` was defined in!
- Remember **Shift+Enter** to execute
- Enter just adds a new line
- Use ?<function_name> for help
- Use Tab for **auto-complete** or suggestions

JupyterLab

- More than just notebooks:
  - Text editor
  - Console
  - Custom components (Many extensions)
- Arrange multiple documents and views
- JupyterLab Documentation

Using Python & JupyterLab on Course Server

- https://tiger.cs.niu.edu/jupyter/
- Login with you Z-ID
- You will receive an email with your password
- Advanced:
  - Can add your own conda environments in your user directory

Using Python & JupyterLab Locally

- www.anaconda.com/download/
- Anaconda has JupyterLab
- Use Python 3.8
- Anaconda Navigator
  - GUI application for managing Python environment
  - Can install packages
  - Can start JupyterLab
- Can also use the shell to do this:
  - `$ jupyter lab`
  - `$ conda install <pkg_name>`

Chicago Food Inspections

- Data: Information about food facility inspections in Chicago
- Data Source: https://data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/Food-Inspections/4ijn-s7e5/data
- Fields: Name, Facility Type, Risk, Violations, Location, etc.

Chicago Food Inspections Exploration

- Based on David Beazley's PyData Chicago talk
- YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6VSAsKAj98
- Our in-class exploration:
  - Don't focus on the syntax
  - Focus on:
    - What is information is available
    - Questions are interesting about this dataset
    - How to decide on good follow-up questions
    - What the computations mean