# Python for scientists

Lesson 8
Python scripts
and modules



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## **Python scripts**



### **Python scripts**

A Python script is a collection of commands in a file designed to be executed like a program.

The script file will contain variables, functions and any Python code, but the idea is that it will be run or executed from the command line or from within a Python interactive shell to perform a specific task.

The Python interpreter (command line or shell) was very useful for learning, but as you probably noticed, when you quit from the interpreter and enter it again, the definitions you have made of functions and variables are lost.

Therefore, **if you want to write a long Python script**, you should use a more sophisticated tool, for example:

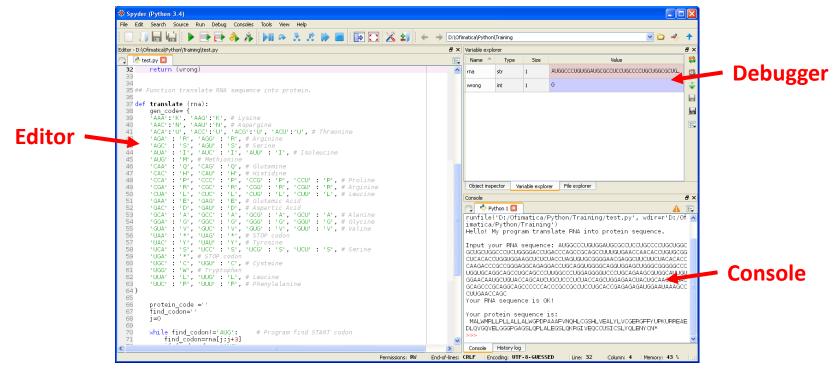
- <u>Spyder</u>: An integrated development environment (IDE).
- Notepad++: An advanced text editor.



### **Spyder**

#### **Spyder** (formerly Pydee) includes:

- An advanced editor with syntax highlighting and code completion help.
- A console to run and test the script.
- A debugger to find errors in the code running it line by line and checking the content of the variables.





### Notepad++

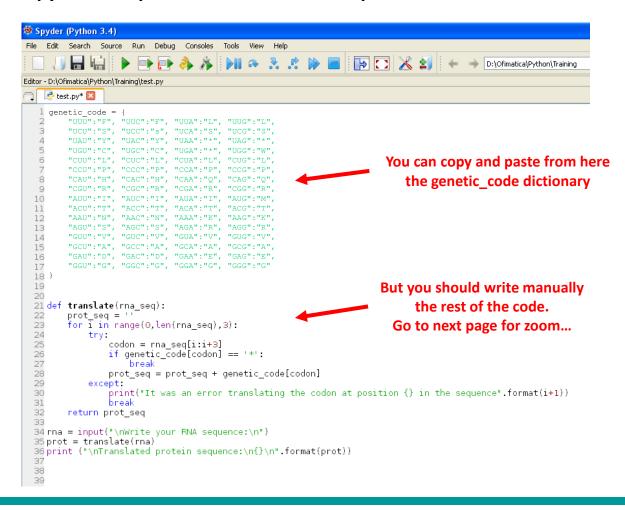
<u>Notepad++</u> is less powerful than Spyder for Python programming, its main advantages are syntax highlighting and code auto-completion.

But Notepad++ can be used to programing in many languages, not only Python, and it can be more intuitive and user-friendly for some people.

```
D:\Ofimatica\Python\Training\test.py - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Macro Run Plugins Window ?
 ## Function check is sequence correct: is there START and STOP codons
  3  def check_sequence(rna,wrong):
          stop=-1 # Position of STOP codon
          start =- 1 # Position of START codor
         for x in range(len(rna)): # Looking for START codon
             codon=rna[x:x+3]
             if codon == 'AUG':
                 for y in range(x+3,len(rna),3): # Looking for STOP codon
                    codon=rna[y:y+3]
                    if codon == 'UGA' or codon == 'UAA' or codon == 'UAG':
 16
                         wrong=0
 19
              elif rna[x]=='T':
                 print("Your sequence is DNA or have Thymine.\nPlease input correct sequence.")
                 return wrong
                 break
 26
             print("There isn't any START codon.\nPlease input correct sequence.")
 28
          if stop==-1 and start!=-1:
 29
             print("There isn't STOP codon.\nPlease input correct sequence.")
           return (wrong)
       ## Function translate RNA sequence into protein.
                                                          length: 3368 lines: 91
                                                                                 Ln:1 Col:1 Sel:0|0
```

### **Creating a script in Spyder**

Let's create in Spyder a script that asks for a RNA sequence and translates it into a protein:



### **Creating a script in Spyder**

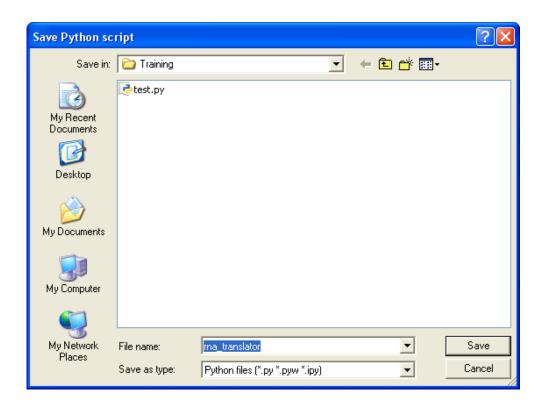
### 'translate()' function and rest of the code:

```
21 def translate(rna seq):
       prot seg = ''
22
23
       for i in range(0,len(rna seq),3):
24
           try:
               codon = rna seq[i:i+3]
               if genetic code[codon] == '*':
26
27
28
               prot seq = prot seq + genetic code[codon]
29
               print("It was an error translating the codon at position {} in the sequence".format(i+1))
30
31
               break
32
       return prot seq
34 rna = input("\nWrite your RNA sequence:\n")
35 prot = translate(rna)
36 print ("\nTranslated protein sequence:\n{}\n".format(prot))
```

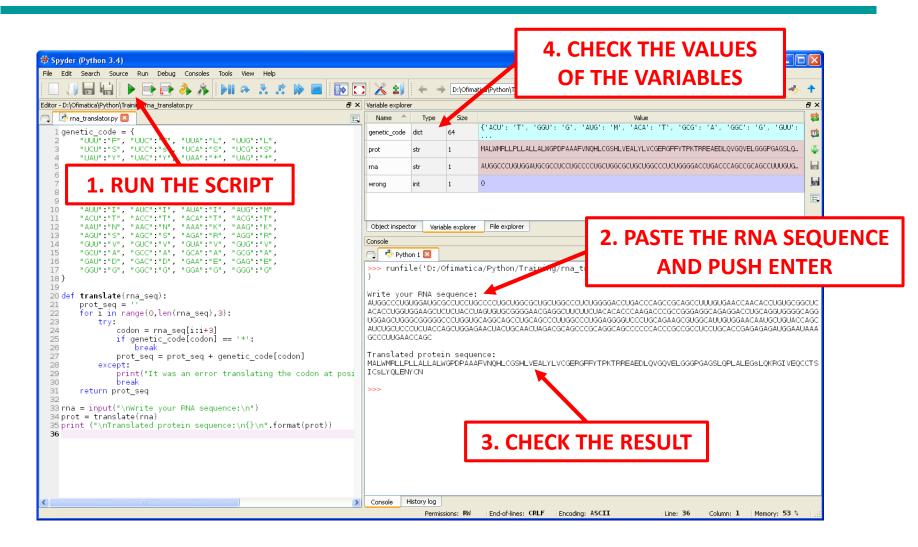
#### RNA sequence to try the script later:

### Saving a script in Spyder

Save the script with the name 'rna\_translator'. Spyder will automatically add the typical Python script extension '.py', so the final name of the script will be 'rna\_translator.py'.



### Running a script in Spyder



### **Running a script**

We can also run the script with Python or Windows command line interpreters:

Python interpreter (IDLE):



Windows command line (CMD):



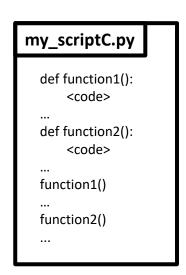


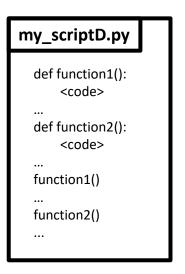
A module is a Python file containing functions and variables used by multiple scripts. The module file has the module name with the suffix '.py' appended (like scripts, ex. my\_module.py).

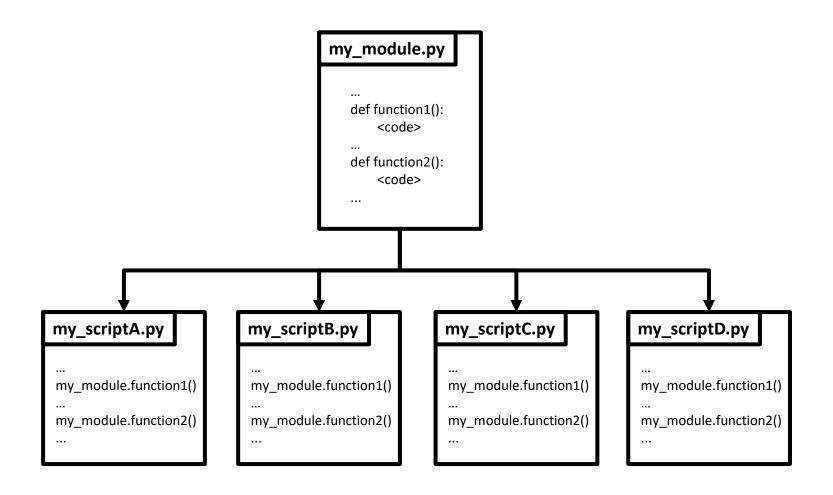
Modules are the solution to functions used by several scripts without writing them many times (once per script). Remember that functions are pieces of code writen once and used several times by a single script.

### 

### 







To use a module we have to import it with the 'import' command at the beginning of the script.

The first time a module is loaded into a running Python script, it is initialized by executing the code in the module once. If another module in your code imports the same module again, it will not be loaded twice but only once.

Functions included in the module can be called with the module name plus ".' (dot) and the function name.

We already used the module 'os' for working with files and folders:

```
>>> import os
```

>>> os.getcwd()

>>> os.makedirs(<path>)

>>> os.chdir(<path>)

>>> os.listdir(<path>)

You can check out the full list of built-in modules in the Python standard library here.



The module 'math' includes useful mathematical operations:

```
>>> import math
>>> print('π:', math.pi)
π: 3.141592653589793
>>> print('e:', math.e)
e: 2.718281828459045
>>> values = [ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ]
>>> print('Sum of values:',math.fsum(values))
Sum of values: 15.0
>>> print('Factorial of 5:',math.factorial(5))
Factorial of 5: 120
>>> print('Square root of 5:', math.sqrt(5))
Square root of 5: 2.23606797749979
>>> print('10 to the power 5:', math.pow(10,5))
10 to the power 5: 100000.0
>>> print('Logarithm base 10 of 100000:',math.log(100000,10))
Logarithm base 10 of 100000: 5.0
>>> print('Exponential function of 5:',math.exp(5))
Exponential function of 5: 148.4131591025766
>>> print('Natural logarithm of 150:',math.log(150))
Natural logarithm of 150: 5.0106352940962555
```

If you want to learn more... <a href="https://pymotw.com/3/math/">https://pymotw.com/3/math/</a>



Let's practice with the module 'datetime'. This module includes functions for working with dates and times.

```
>>> import datetime
>>> today = datetime.date.today()
>>> print(today)
2016-12-15
>>> print('ctime:', today.ctime())
ctime: Thu Dec 15 00:00:00 2016
>>> print('Year:', today.year)
Year: 2016
>>> print('Month:', today.month)
Month: 12
>>> print('Day:', today.day)
Day: 15
>>> one day = datetime.timedelta(days=1)
>>> print('One day:', one day)
One day: 1 day, 0:00:00
>>> yesterday = today - one day
>>> print('Yesterday:', yesterday)
Yesterday: 2016-12-14
>>> tomorrow = today + one day
>>> print('Tomorrow:', tomorrow)
Tomorrow: 2016-12-16
```

'today' is a new data type called object

If you want to learn more... https://pymotw.com/3/datetime/



The 'os' module include many functions to interact with the file system:

```
>>> import os
>>> dir = os.getcwd()
>>> print(dir)
D:\Ofimatica\Python
>>> filenames = os.listdir(dir)
>>> print(filenames)
['DLLs', 'Doc', 'include', 'Lib', 'libs', 'LICENSE.txt', 'Logs', 'NEWS.txt
', 'python.exe', 'pythonw.exe', 'qt.conf', 'README.txt', 'Removespyder.exe
', 'Scripts', 'spyder-wininst.log', 'tcl', 'Tools', 'Training']
>>> for filename in filenames:
        print(filename)
        print(os.path.join(dir, filename))
DLLs
D:\Ofimatica\Python\DLLs
Doc
D:\Ofimatica\Python\Doc
include
D:\Ofimatica\Python\include
Lib
D:\Ofimatica\Python\Lib
```

If you want to learn more... <a href="https://pymotw.com/3/os/">https://pymotw.com/3/os/</a>



'os.system()' is a useful function that allows to execute external commands/programs:

```
>>> import os
>>> os.system('Notepad.exe')
0
```

But 'os.system()' functionality is limited and it has been improved and extended by the module 'subprocess':

```
>>> import subprocess
>>> subprocess.check output("dir C:", shell=True)
b' Volume in drive C has no label.\r\n Volume Serial Number is 40E8-B792\r\n\r\n Directory of C:
\\\r\n\r\n15/09/2015 22:40
                              <DIR>
                                            620d7725fb7e297cbe7b7f\r\n21/05/2015 23:15
           86dc4285d542e45c8334e4c67f334e\r\n17/05/2015 12:31
                                                                 <DIR>
2014 00:54
                           O AUTOEXEC.BAT\r\n21/05/2015 23:16
                                                                 <DIR>
                                                                               b8d00488098dc2
3ebb\r\n26/12/2014 00:54
                                        O CONFIG.SYS\r\n31/03/2016 16:35
                                                                                       333 Do
cuments\r\n09/02/2015 17:40 <DIR>
                                             Documents and Settings\r\n17/08/2016 22:20
            MinGW\r\n06/09/2016 23:58 <DIR>
IR>
                                                        Program Files\r\n04/12/2016 09:31
                                                            333 bytes\r\n
<DIR>
              WINDOWS\r\n
                                       3 File(s)
                                                                                       8 Dir(
s) 3.917.590.528 bytes free\r\n'
>>> subprocess.call(['Notepad.exe', 'C:\\test.txt'])
0
```

If you want to learn more... https://pymotw.com/3/subprocess/



You can install additional modules into Python appart from the <u>built-in</u> ones:

Python interpreter (IDLE):

```
>>> import subprocess
>>> subprocess.call(['pip', 'install', SomePackage])
```

Windows command line (CMD):

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

Microsoft Windows XP [Version 5.1.2600]
(C) Copyright 1985-2001 Microsoft Corp.

D:\Ofimatica\Python\python -m pip install SomePackage
```

# Python for scientists

Next lesson...
NumPy, SciPy and
Matplotlib

