

Effective Programming Practices for Economists

Python Installation and Execution

Installation and introduction to Pixi

Janoś Gabler, Hans-Martin von Gaudecker, and Tim Mensinger

What is pixi?

- When using programs like Stata or Matlab you typically have single version of the program installed
 - Problematic when different projects require different versions of the program
 - Worse when depending on custom extensions / libraries
- We want an independent environment for each project
 - Pixi allows you to create and manage per-project environments

Installation

- In your terminal of choice, execute a tiny shell script found here:
<https://pixi.sh/latest/#installation>
- Re-start your terminal
- If you have any issues, reach out on the course Zulip!

Using pixi

```
$ cd path/to/project
$ ls
script.py
pyproject.toml
```

```
# script.py

print("Hello, world!")
```

```
$ pixi run python script.py
Hello, world!
```

- There is no need to install or activate the pixi environment manually!
- The environment is automatically installed/updated when `pixi run` is called
- Any command that relies on the environment **must be** prefixed with `pixi run` :
 - `python script.py` → `pixi run python script.py`
 - `pytest` → `pixi run pytest`
 - ...