

Anaconda Installation Instructions for MacOS

FTC 2024 - Introduction to Python and Statistical Machine Learning

September 2024

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Introduction

Installing Python can sometimes be somewhat painful (even for advanced users). Here, we try to make it as simple as possible by using the beginner-friendly Anaconda distribution.

While this guide might look long, most of it is just pictures. The entire process should take under 20 minutes.

1 Download the Anaconda Distribution

Go to the Anaconda download website by clicking here.

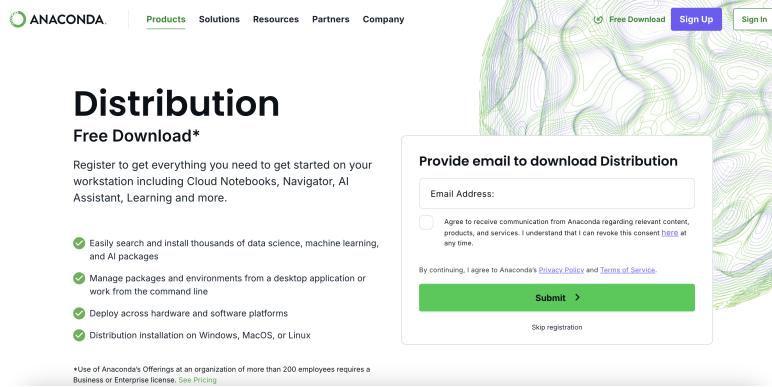


Figure 1: The download website.

Making an account is not necessary. You can simply click on the “*Skip Registration*” Button.

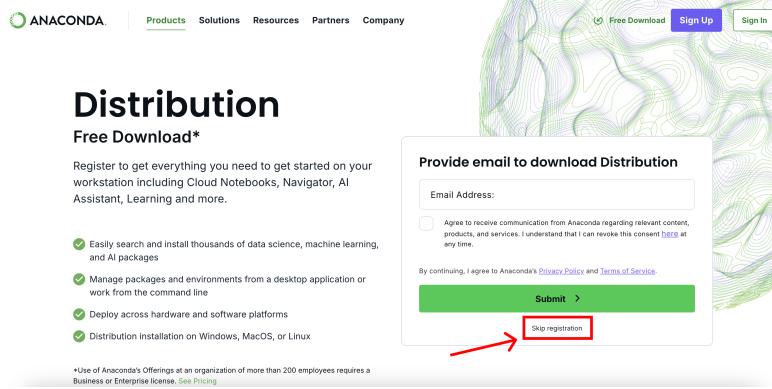


Figure 2: Registration is not even needed.

You will now pick the “*Graphical Installer*” on the MacOS column. Determine which installer to select based on whether you have an Apple chip or an Intel chip.

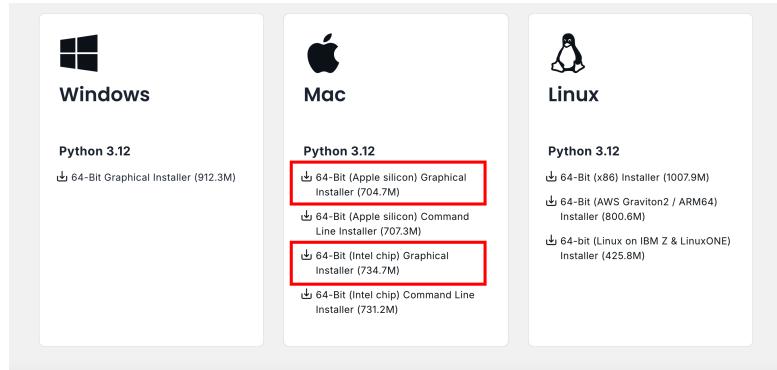


Figure 3: Select the graphical installer.

Check that your download was successful by going to your “*Downloads*” folder and finding the file that ends in “*.pkg*”.

2 Install the Distribution

Double click on the “.pkg” file. The program launched should look similar to this:

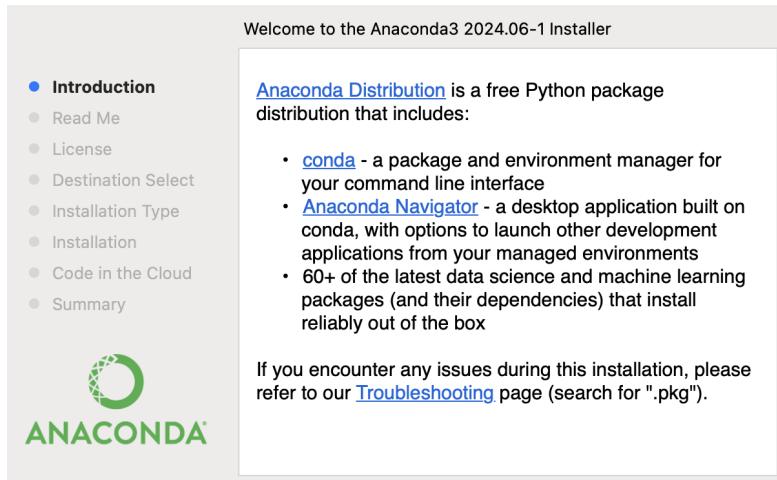


Figure 4: The Anaconda installer.

The following prompt might pop up:

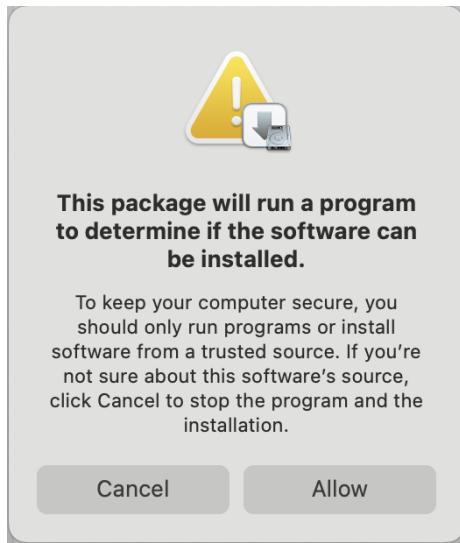


Figure 5: Package installation prompt.

Click “Allow”.

Walk through the steps that the installer gives you until you are prompted to accept the software license:

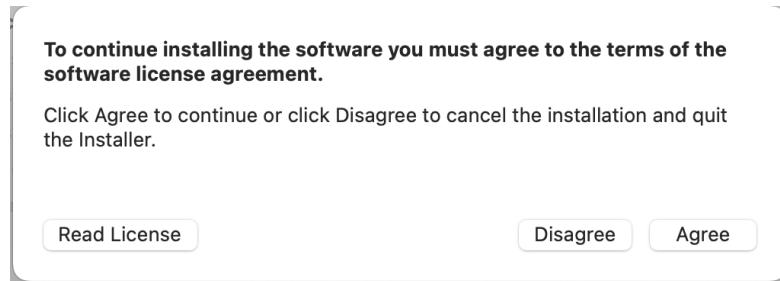


Figure 6: Software license prompt.

Click “Agree”.

For the next step, it is recommended that you install the software for all users of the computer.

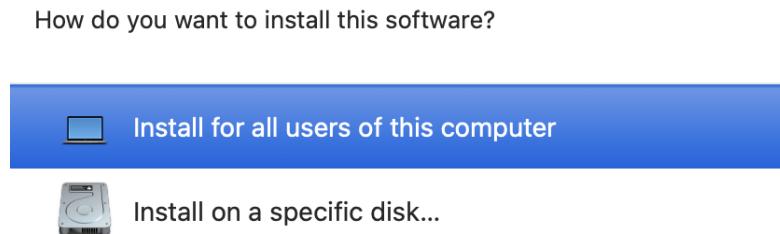


Figure 7: Install for all users.

Next, do not switch the installation location as this might cause issues. Click “Install”.

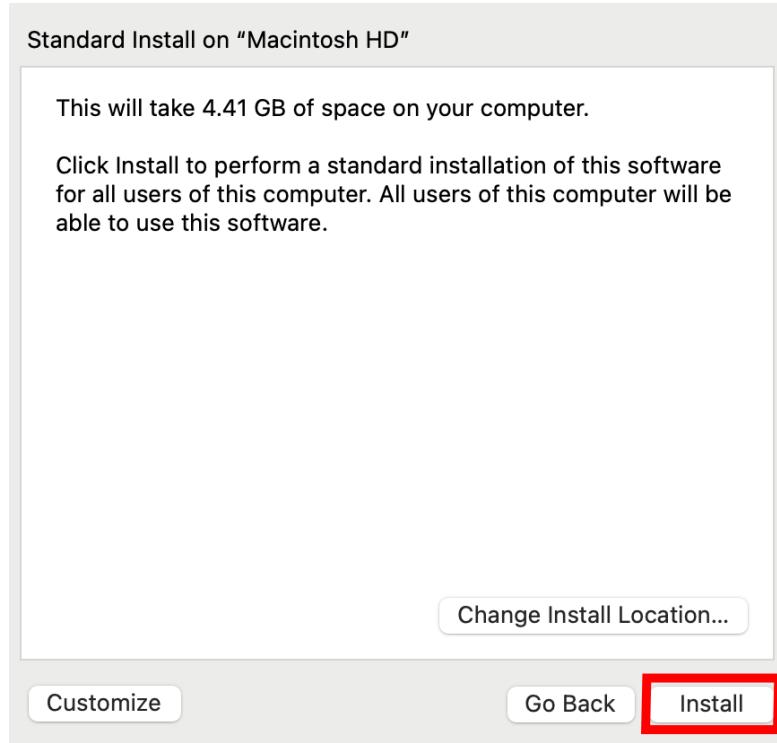


Figure 8: Do not change the installation location.

Input your computer username and password if prompted.

Once the installation is done, proceed through the last steps.

When you've reached the end, close the installer and move it to the trash.

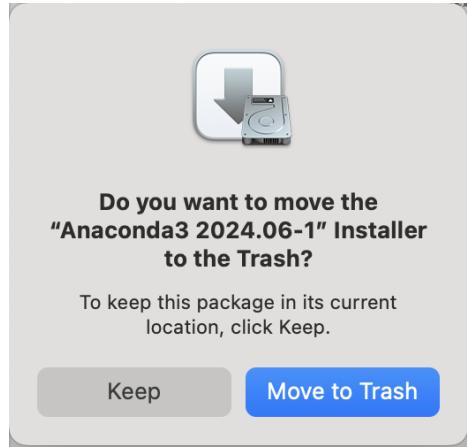


Figure 9: Installation is done.

3 Launch Python

Open the computer's new “Anaconda-Navigator” application.

Close any pop-ups and notifications. If prompted for updates, you may ignore them for now, but it is a good idea to update later. Your screen should now look like this:

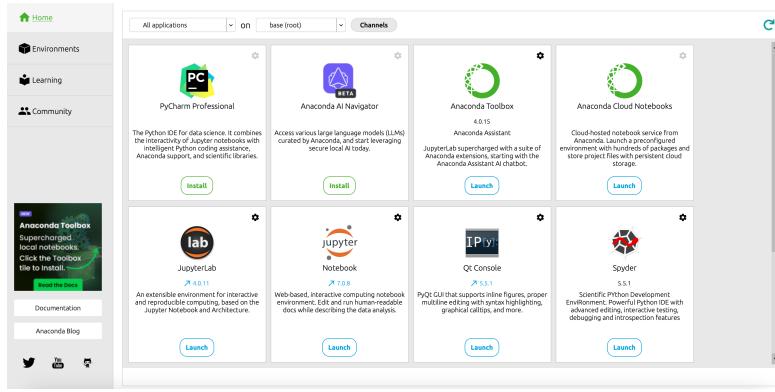


Figure 10: The Anaconda navigator.

Click on “Launch” under “JupyterLab”.

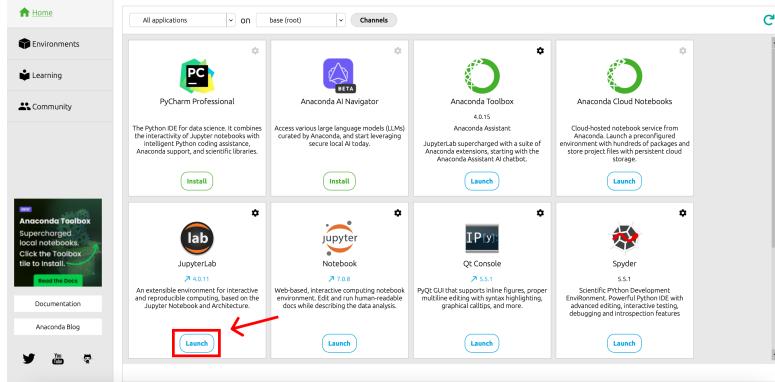


Figure 11: Launch JupyterLab.

This will open a new tab in your internet browser.

MacOS users might see the following prompt:

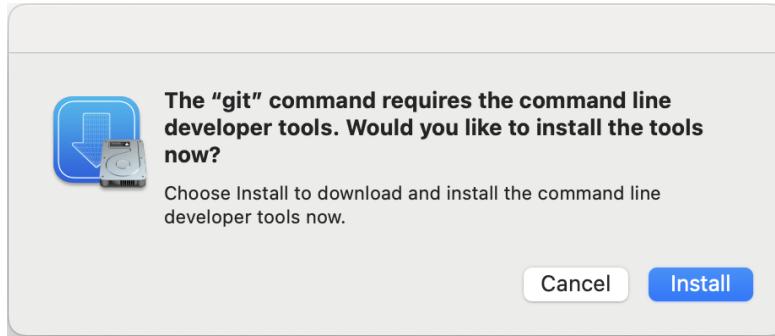


Figure 12: Install the CLD tools.

Click “*Install*”. It is not necessary to wait for this to be done before proceeding to the next steps.

Close out the “*Anaconda Assistant*” panel by clicking on the right stars:

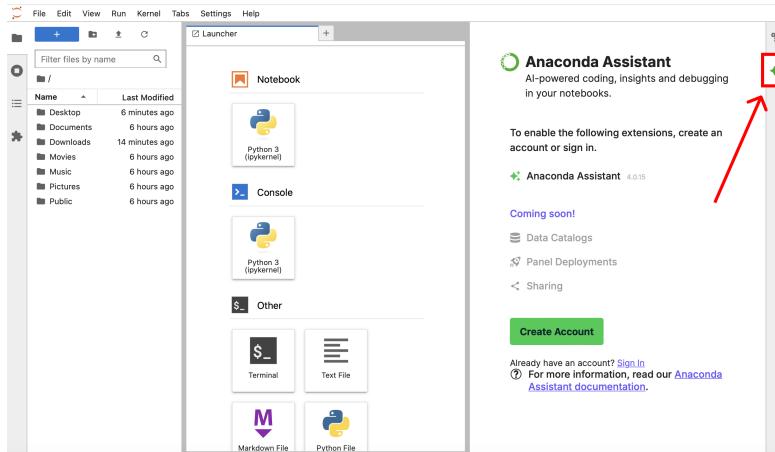


Figure 13: Close the Anaconda assistant.

Open the course files by using the file navigator on the left side. Make sure you allow Anaconda to access your files!

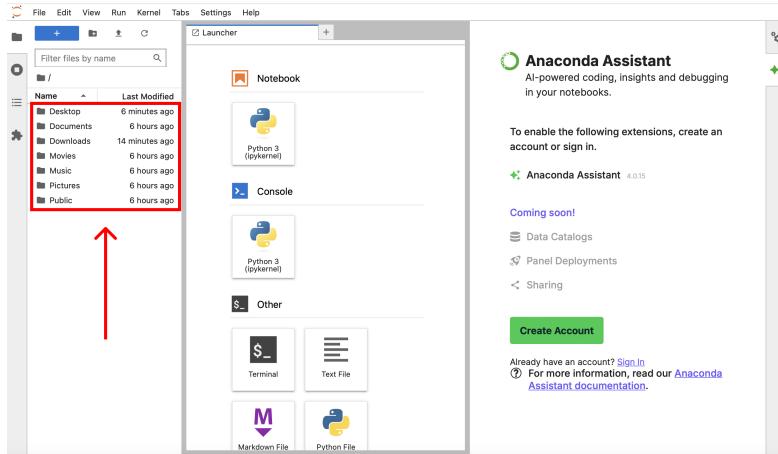


Figure 14: Find the course folder with the file navigator.

To close Python, go to “File” and click “Shut Down”:

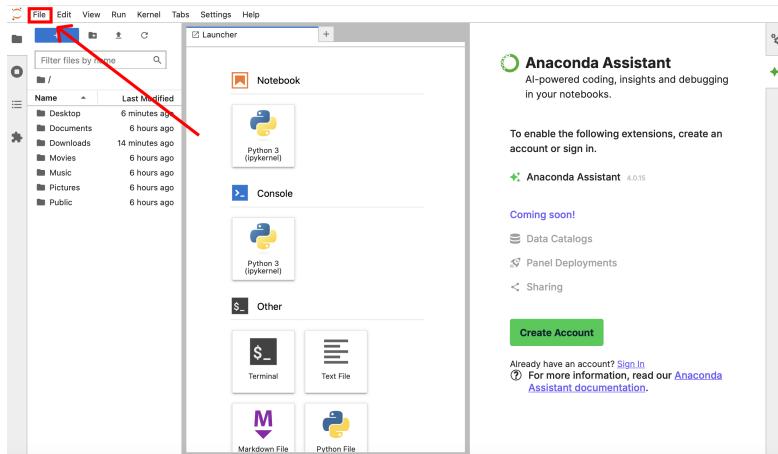


Figure 15: Shutting down Python.

Confirm that you want to shut down JupyterLab.

After that, close the browser tab and quit the “Anaconda-Navigator” app.

4 Access Google Colab

We will be using Google Colab for the final part of the course since we can easily access GPUs there. GPUs allow us to speed up work that would otherwise take too long.

Please make sure you can access: <https://colab.research.google.com>.

You will need a Google account in order to do this.

If you can get to the following screen, then you're all set!

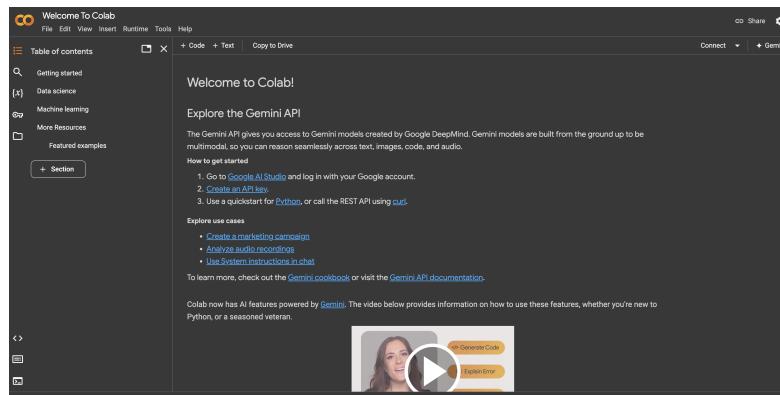


Figure 16: The Google Colaboratory.

This is only used for a small section at the end, so do not worry too much if you cannot access it.