

Getting Started with Python

Instruction prior to workshop

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Install Anaconda

- Go to the following link: <https://www.continuum.io/downloads>
- Follow instructions for your system (Mac, Windows, Linux) to install the **Python 2.7** version of Anaconda
 - The file is approximately 300-500 MB so it may take a while to download in the class period; additionally the file takes a while to install
 - Please be sure to do this prior to class to maximize time learning Python
- Review the following tutorials if you're interested in investigating conda more:
 - <http://conda.pydata.org/docs/get-started.html>

Once Anaconda is installed (or if Anaconda is already installed):

- Open a terminal
 - On a Mac or Linux machine open up the terminal
 - On a Windows machine the easiest option is to use the Anaconda Prompt that comes with Anaconda.
 - Unfortunately I am not that familiar with the windows command prompt commands. So please review the command prompt commands prior to class.
 - If you're more advanced in Windows and would like to get a UNIX terminal to work with conda please go ahead!
- Check the version of Anaconda. Type the following into your terminal
 - `conda --version`
 - conda will respond with the version number that you have installed, like:
`conda 3.11.0`
- Update conda to the latest version by typing the following commands
 - `conda update conda`
- If a newer version of conda is available, type Y to update
 - `Proceed ([y]/n)? y`
- Update the *Anaconda* meta package:
 - `conda update anaconda`

- Proceed ([y]/n)? y

Changing from Python 3.5 to Python 2.7

- Check the current version of python from the installation
 - `python --version`
- This should return something similar to:
 - `Python 2.7.11 :: Anaconda 4.0.0 (x86_64)`
- If it does not say Python 2.7 or Anaconda:
 - If not Anaconda:
 - There is another distribution of python that is installed and ahead of Anaconda in the path. Often this is the Canopy Enthought version of python.
 - On a Mac or Linux machine, to fix this you must edit your `.bash_profile`, `.profile`, and `.bashrc` files to remove mentions of the Canopy version.
 - If you're stuck at this step we can attempt to fix the issue early in the day of the workshop
 - If not Python 2.x and instead Python 3.y, then:
 - Create a Python 2.7 environment
 - `conda create -n py27 python=2.7 anaconda`
 - Activate the new environment
 - `source activate py27`
 - Check python version
 - `python --version`
 - Update conda
 - `conda update conda`
 - Update the *Anaconda* meta package:
 - `conda update anaconda`

Installing a text editor

- If you do not already have a text editor that you are comfortable using on your machine, please install one prior to the class
- One very common one to use is Sublime Text which is available for Mac OS, Windows and Linux
 - <https://www.sublimetext.com/>
 - Free to download and evaluate, though the full version of the software for continued use costs money.
 - The free version will be adequate for the class
- If you are adventurous, learn how to use vim, emacs, or nano which are alternate command line text editors.
 - These text editors have a steep learning curve, but are very powerful once you get the hang of them.