We're going to use Python 3.9 (and a bunch of helpful libraries) using Anaconda. Anaconda advertises itself as "the world's most popular data science platform."

Let's start by downloading the latest version of Anaconda:
https://www.anaconda.com/products/distribution

Make sure to grab the Python 3.9 version. You should find installers for Windows, Mac, and Linux.

Once you install, you should find that the path to your python installation looks like:

```
# from a terminal window
>> which python

# you'll see something like:
/Users/zzhu20/opt/anaconda3/bin/python

# Create environment for our class
>> conda create --name cs484

# see list of our environments
>> conda info --envs

# update packages in this environment
>> conda install --name cs484 matplotlib
>> conda install --name cs484 jupyter
>> conda install --name cs484 numpy
>> conda install --name cs484 pandas
>> conda install --name cs484 requests
# plus many others that we'll install later in the semester.

# switch over to our new environment before you start coding
# you will see (cs484) now
>> source activate cs484

# use 'conda deactivate' to deactivate the current environment

# In Windows, the commands are "activate cs484" and "deactivate"

# Use jupyter (newer re-branded version of ipython) like so:
>> jupyter notebook
```

jupyter provides a user-friendly GUI for data mining and machine learning programming, explore by yourself. And here is a nice tutorial for beginners: https://medium.com/velotio-perspectives/the-ultimate-beginners-guide-to-jupyter-notebooks-6b00846ed2af

when you are done and close out jupyter, you can deactivate the current environment
>> conda deactivate

You can find more info on conda here: https://docs.conda.io/projects/conda/en/latest/user-guide/index.html
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Feel free to post here if you have any issues.