

# Getting Started

You'll need to begin by following the installation instructions in `install.pdf` to set up your computing environment for this course. We'll be using Python 3 inside of Jupyter notebooks, along with a variety of standard libraries for working with data.

Once your environment is ready to go and you've downloaded the file "Tech Tools Tutorial", open up a terminal (if you're on OS X/Linux) and type in

```
source activate neur299env
jupyter notebook
```

If you're on Windows, open up a command prompt window and type in

```
activate neur299env
jupyter notebook
```

A browser window should open up, and you should see a list of files. Even though this is inside your internet browser, it's actually a list of files on your own computer. Navigate to the folder **Tech Tools Tutorial** and open up the file **Using Jupyter Notebooks.ipynb**.

The homeworks and tutorials for this course will all be in this format, and this notebook contains a tutorial on how to use Jupyter notebooks.

The remainder of the notebooks in the folder describe how to use the other tools we'll be using in the course:

1. the **Python** programming language
2. the **pandas** data management library
3. the **seaborn** plotting package
4. L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X typesetting language

listed in order of importance.

Reading through the first three tutorials (i.e., those on JuPyter, Python, and pandas) will help you prepare for the first section.