Installing Anaconda 3

Note* It is not necessary to download Anaconda if you are using Linux. If you're familiar with your repositories, you can use the apt-get, zypper, yum, etc. Ensure that you have python3, spyder3, numpy, scipy, matplotlib, and datetime. If you're unsure how to do this, go ahead and use the Anaconda installer.

Anaconda Installer

In a browser, go to https://www.continuum.io/downloads. Select the Python 3.5 downloader appropriate for your operating system. For windows, ensure that you only select the 64 bit installer for 64 bit operating systems. For OSX, pick the graphical installer.

Windows and OSX

After the installer has finished downloading, run it, and follow the prompt for installation.

Installing on Linux

Use the cd command to navigate to the folder you downloaded the installer in, and then use the command:

bash Anaconda3-4.1.1-Linux-x86_64.sh

Press enter to see the agreement, and use space to advance through it until the end. Then type yes and hit enter. It will prompt with the default location that it will install anaconda. To use the default location, press enter. Otherwise, specify a new path name and press enter.

Using Python

Unless you are a seasoned programmer already, used to programming from a command line program like vim, I recommend using Spyder, included in the Anaconda distribution, to do most of your programming. It's an IDE (integrated development environment) that is similar to many others, including MatLab. Below is how I have mine arranged. The parts are movable however, and you can set yours up to however makes the most sense to you.

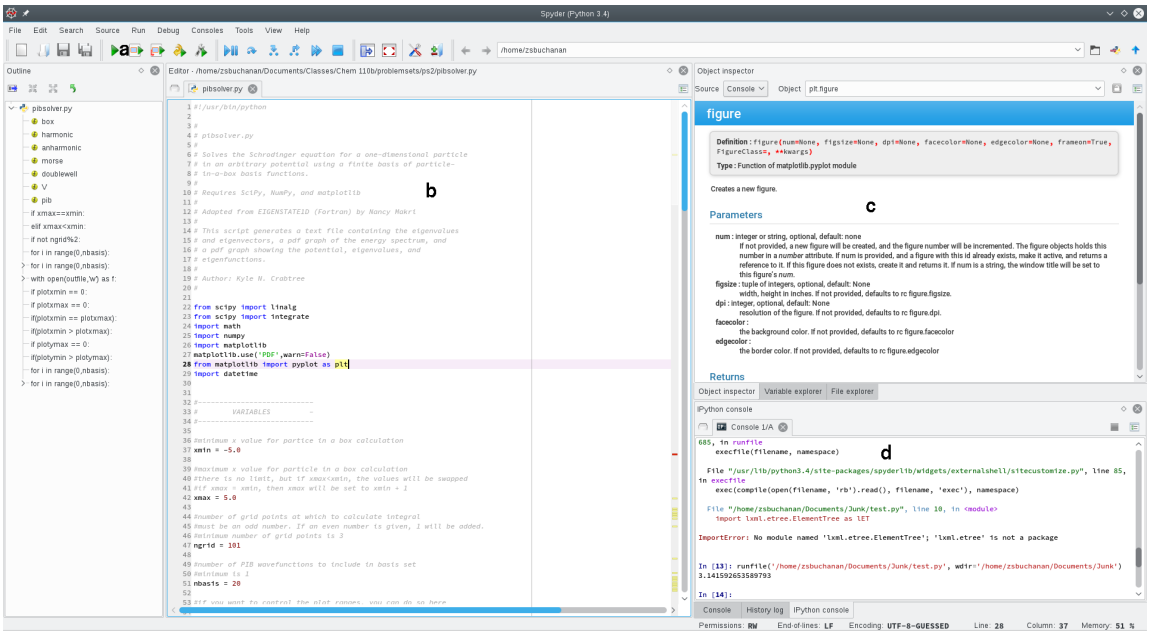

Figure 1: a. Tools for running and debugging scripts. The green play button will run your script in the current console (see d.). b. Editor. This is where you can write and edit scripts prior to running them. c. Object inspector/variable explorer. The object inspector can tell you information about using functions, and the variable explorer lets you look at the values stored in different variables in your scripts. d. Console. This is where python commands are run. This is where anything "printed" by the script will be written.

You can load the pibsolver script given to you there, make your edits (area b), and run it (area a) without having to use the command line (which makes the task much less daunting). Your results show up in the console you have selected (area d).