Getting Started with Anaconda

The goal of this assignment is to setup the Anaconda Python environment on your personal machine so that you can use the same notebooks that we use in lecture. There is also a small notebook with practice exercises for you to complete once the environment is up and running. Finally, we will recommend and install a text editor that you will use to create .py files and to run your code from the command line.
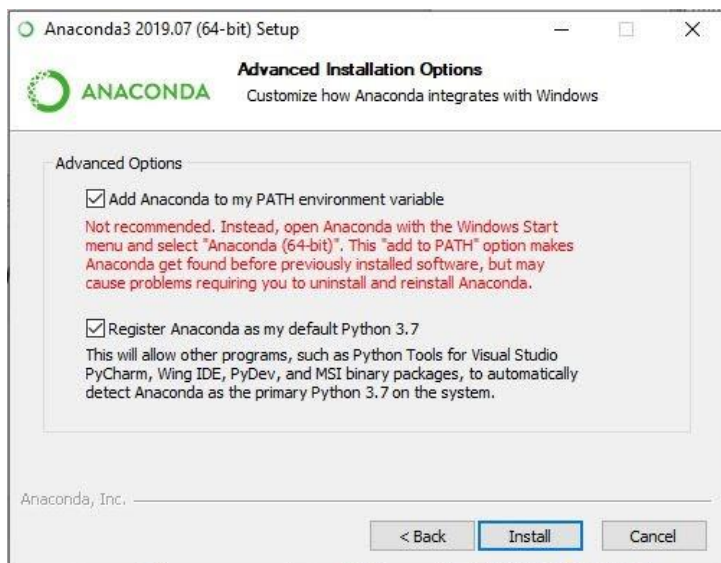
Install Anaconda:

Begin by visiting https://www.anaconda.com/products/individual and downloading the 64-bit Python3-based version of Anaconda specific to your platform (Windows, Mac OS, Linux). You will need to scroll down to the bottom of the page, then click the option that applies to you:

You want Python 3.7 – do not download any version of Python 2!

In most cases, this software is provided in a standard installer executable for your platform. If given the option to install for all users or a single user, most people will select single user.

NOTE: if you are using Windows, you must select the option to modify your path during setup. Otherwise your installation will not work properly.
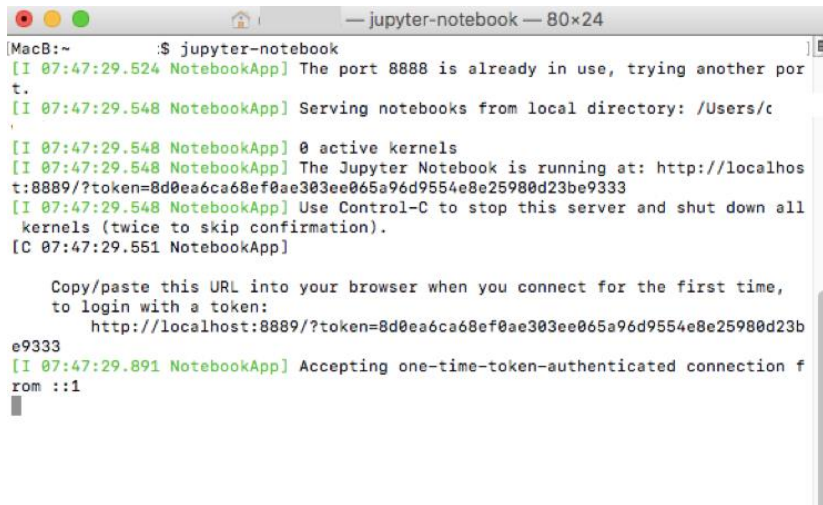

Both boxes MUST be checked.

Use a terminal to launch Jupyter notebook:

Open a terminal – on a Mac, this is the Terminal application, if you are using Windows, this is Powershell, and on Linux, you can use any console application. Once the terminal is open, type:

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jupyter-notebook
```

and then press Enter. This will start the Jupyter notebook server on your computer. As the server starts, status information will appear in the console (this screenshot is from a Mac):

You MUST leave this terminal window open the entire time you are using a notebook. Soon, a new tab will pop up in your web browser that shows all of the files and folders on your computer:

Installing a text editor:

You may choose to use any text editor such as Atom, TextWrangler (Mac), or Notepad++ (Windows), VSCode, or an IDE like Spyder. Please be aware that we may not be able to provide support or troubleshooting assistance for these programs.