Python Course Setup

Anaconda Setup

We will use the Anaconda distribution of Python for this course. The reason for this is that Anaconda comes with a lot of useful extended functionality that default Python doesn't come with. This section will guide you through the process of installing Anaconda.

1. Download the Anaconda installer from here: https://www.anaconda.com/
2. Run the installer and select to install for 'Just Me'
3. Keep the default install location
4. Don't select to add Anaconda3 to PATH, but do select to register Anaconda3 as default Python
5. Install, once installed, you should be able to access the Anaconda Navigator by searching for it in your installed programs.

VS Code Setup

We will use VS Code as our code editor for this course. If you haven't used a code editor before, it's essentially like Word but for programming. We are using VS Code as it provides a lot of functionality whilst still being lightweight (it doesn't use too many computer resources). It is also highly customisable using various extensions; however, we won't touch on this too much in this course.

1. Download the VS Code Installer from here: https://code.visualstudio.com/
2. Select to Register Code as an Editor and Add to Path. Optionally you can select to create a desktop icon and to add "Open with Code" to Explorer context menus as well.
3. Install, once installed, you should be able to access VSCode by searching for it in your installed programs.
4. Open VSCode and on the left hand toolbar, click on Extensions (Ctrl+Shift+X).
5. Search for and install the Python, Pylance and Jupyter Extensions. Note these should all be made by Microsoft.