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- * [`cli`](../dev-guide/api/conda_env/cli/index.html)
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Package search and install specifications#

Conda supports the following specifications for ``conda search`` and ``conda install``.

Package search#

``conda search`` for a specific package or set of packages can be accomplished in several ways. This section includes information on the standard specification and the use of key-value pairs.

Standard specification#

[!../_images/conda_search.png](../_images/conda_search.png)

channel

(Optional) Can either be a channel name or URL. Channel names may include letters, numbers, dashes, and underscores.

****subdir****

(Optional) A subdirectory of a channel. Many subdirs are used for architectures, but this is not required. Must have a channel and backslash preceding it. For example: `main/noarch`

****name****

(Required) Package name. May include the `*` wildcard. For example, `*py` returns all packages that have "py" in their names, such as "numpy", "pytorch", "python", etc.

****version****

(Optional) Package version. May include the `*` wildcard or a version range(s) in single quotes. For example: `numpy=1.17.*` returns all numpy packages with

a version containing "1.17." and ``numpy>1.17,<1.19.2`` returns all numpy packages with versions greater than 1.17 and less than 1.19.2.

`build**`**

(Optional) Package build name. May include the ``*`` wildcard. For example, ``numpy 1.17.3 py38*`` returns all version 1.17.3 numpy packages with a build name that contains the text "py38".

Key-value pairs#

Package searches can also be performed using what is called "key-value pair notation", which has different rules than the Standard specification example image. The search below will return the same list of packages as the standard specification.

```
$ conda search "numpy[channel=conda-forge, subdir=linux-64, version=1.17.*, build=py38*]"
```

This notation supports the following key-value pairs:

- build # validated via GlobStrMatch
- build_number # validated via BuildNumberMatch
- channel # validated via ChannelMatch
- features # validated via FeatureMatch
- fn # validated via ExactStrMatch
- license # validated via CaseInsensitiveStrMatch
- license_family # validated via CaseInsensitiveStrMatch
- md5 # validated via ExactStrMatch
- name # validated via GlobLowerStrMatch
- sha256 # validated via ExactStrMatch
- subdir # validated via ExactStrMatch
- track_features # validated via FeatureMatch
- url # validated via ExactStrMatch
- version # validated via VersionSpec

Key-value pair notation can be used at the same time as standard notation.

```
$ conda search "conda-forge::numpy=1.17.3[subdir=linux-64, build=py38*]"
```

Warning

Any search values using the key-value pair notation will override values in the rest of the search string. For example, `conda search numpy`

1.17.3[version=1.19.2]` will return packages with the version `1.19.2`.

Package installation#

When you're installing packages, conda recommends being as concrete as possible. Using `*` wildcards and version ranges during an install will most likely cause a conflict.

However, `*` wildcards can still be helpful in an install command when used sparingly.

Installing with wildcards#

Let's say you are working on a project that requires version 2.3 of a package. If you upgrade to 2.4 or 3.0, your project will break. You're also using an environment file to create your environment.

In the version `2.3.1`, `2` is the major version, `3` is the minor version, and `1` is the patch. Patches typically contain bug fixes, so if you want to keep version `2.3` in your environment without updating to `2.4` or `3.0`, but want to take advantage of any bug fixes, using `2.3.*` in your environment file would be helpful to you.

Concrete install example#

Let's take the search from the Package search section.

```
$ conda search "conda-forge/linux-64::numpy 1.17.* py38"
```

This returns the following:

Loading channels: done

#	Name	Version	Build	Channel
	numpy	1.17.3	py38h95a1406_0	conda-forge
	numpy	1.17.5	py38h18fd61f_1	conda-forge
	numpy	1.17.5	py38h95a1406_0	conda-forge

You can then choose a specific version and build, if necessary, and edit your
`conda install` command accordingly.

```
$ conda install "conda-forge/linux-64::numpy 1.17.5 py38h95a1406_0"
```

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[__Edit on GitHub](<https://github.com/conda/conda/edit/main/docs/source/user-guide/concepts/pkg-search.rst>)

[__Show Source]([../../_sources/user-guide/concepts/pkg-search.rst.txt](https://github.com/conda/conda/blob/main/docs/source/user-guide/concepts/pkg-search.rst))

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