ANACONDA 1 – Getting Started with Python

Anaconda Navigator manages Python libraries.

Do you need it?

- Not necessarily. You can skip this guide if this is your first-time running Python and the code is running fine with the basic setup in "Installing Python for Windows/Mac".

Issues with the basic setup?

- Your computer may have pre-installed Python (especially for Mac).
- You may have installed past versions that generated a conflict

Why Anaconda?

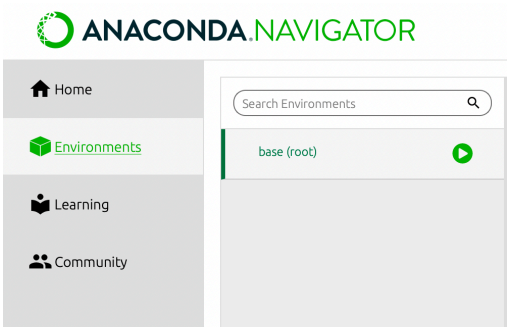
- Good with multiple versions, preinstalls common data science libraries.
- Avoids the use of the terminal by providing a nice graphical interface.
- Advanced: Manages multiple environments.
- Downsides: Launching Anaconda Navigator is sometimes a bit slow (a few seconds).

INSTRUCTIONS

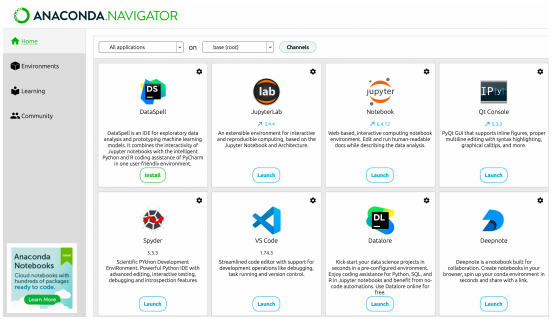
1. Download VS-Code VS Code. If you are on Windows, launch the installer. If you are on Mac, just move the installer to the "Applications" folder. There is no need to do this again if you already followed the guide "Installing Python for Windows.pdf" or "Installing Python for Mac.pdf".

2. Check whether "Anaconda Navigator" is already installed on your computer. If not, go to https://www.anaconda.com/products/distribution. Use all the default settings.

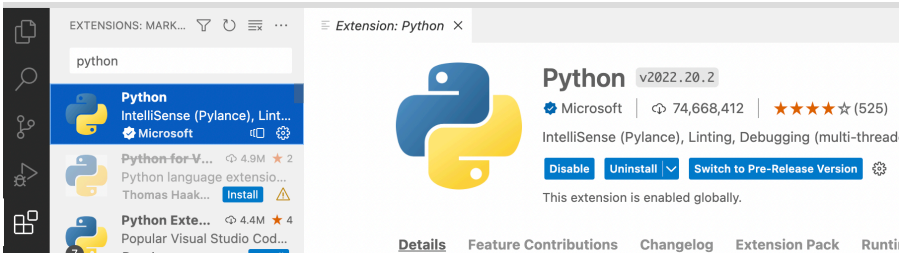
3. Go to the Environments tab. If you are a first time, user you will only see the default environment "base (root)" and there is nothing else you need to do. If you've added other environments in the past, select the one you want.



4. Open Anaconda Navigator. Launch the "VS-Code" app from the home:

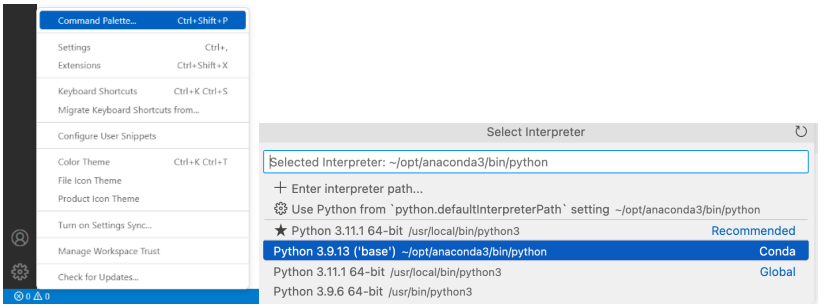


5. Make sure that the Python extension for VS-Code is installed. Go to the extensions tab on the left in VS-Code. Search for Python and install if necessary.



6. In VS-Code, go to the lower left corner and click the Settings button (the gear symbol). Then click "Command Palette".

   Select the interpreter "~opt/anaconda3/bin/python". It has the label "base".



IMPORTANT NOTE:

It's possible that previously edited files will automatically open with a version of Python that differs from the one you defined in Step 6. Changing the default will typically only apply to new files.

To address this, you need to change the Python version for that file. The python version being used is always displayed in the top right corner of the file. In the example below it says “base(Python 3.9.13)”. To switch the version for that file just click on the Python version.