

SETTING UP ANACONDA (OPTIONAL): PHYSICS 91SI 2015

1. GETTING ANACONDA ON OS X AND UNIX

Anaconda is a scientific computing distribution for Python which comes with many useful tools like numpy, scipy, plotting libraries, and the IPython notebook built in. If you install Anaconda which is optional for this course, you will be able to work locally instead of over corn, and the process will be exactly the same except that you will not ssh but instead work at a local terminal.

To get Anaconda, navigate to <https://store.continuum.io/cshop/anaconda/> and click the large blue “Download Anaconda” button. You will need to provide an email address, so unclick the checkbox otherwise allowing Continuum to spam you after you’ve entered it. You should be directed to a page which gives you an installer for the Anaconda system. Choose to download the graphical installer for Python 2.7 (do not click the I WANT PYTHON 3.4 link unless you want incompatibilities with the rest of the class) and run the installer.

Once you have Anaconda installed, you can open an IPython notebook by running the installed “Launcher” application and clicking on the IPython notebook symbol that comes up. We will teach you the rest of what you need to know about IPython notebook towards week two!

2. GETTING ANACONDA ON WINDOWS

We do not recommend that Windows users work locally, as getting a working git installation on Windows can be very difficult. For this reason we recommend that Windows users work in corn, where git and IPython notebook are already installed. If you choose to install Anaconda on Windows (the same instructions as listed above will work), you will need to install and learn how to use git on Windows as well in order to be able to submit assignments. If you really want to pursue this option, drop by Conrad’s office hours on either Wednesday or Friday of the first week of class.