

# Install Miniconda

---

*Quick installation guide written for the VUB course "Remote Sensing of the Environment"*  
© Prof. Dr. B. Smets, RMCA/VUB (Last Update: 18 November 2022)

## What is the Anaconda distribution?

**Anaconda** is an open-source python distribution. It is purpose-built for applications such as, machine learning, data science, and large-scale data processing. This distribution includes the **core Python language**, along with the **conda** package and environment management system and more than 250 pre-installed packages. When installed on Windows, the Anaconda Python distribution also comes with **Anaconda Navigator**, a graphical user interface that can be used instead of conda, and a specific Anaconda terminal (or Anaconda prompt).

When installed on Windows, the Anaconda Python distribution also comes with **Anaconda Navigator**, a graphical user interface that can be used instead of conda, and a **specific Anaconda terminal** (or Anaconda prompt).

## The Miniconda distribution

While Anaconda is one of the most comprehensive Python distributions, it is also very large (will take 3GB to tens of GB of disk space on your computer. (The installation file is about 200MB and will require about 3GB of disk space once installed). This is why a light version of it exists: **Miniconda**.

**Miniconda** has all the components of the Anaconda distribution, except the +250 pre-installed data science applications and additional GUI. Hence, you will just install Python, conda and some basic complementary packages. To install the useful packages, you will have to use the command line. As such, Miniconda offers all the benefits of the Anaconda distribution with minimal space requirements. Miniconda is also much faster to install as compared to the Anaconda distribution.

## Installing Miniconda

If you already have Anaconda or Miniconda installed on your computer, you can skip this installation guide. If not, please follow the steps described here below.

In the the course "Remote Sensing of the Environment", **we will prefer Miniconda** for educational and practical (lightweight) reasons.

First, go to <https://docs.conda.io/en/latest/miniconda.html> and download the installer corresponding to your computer configuration (Windows 32 or 64 bits, MacOS, Linux).

Next, go to <https://conda.io/projects/conda/en/latest/user-guide/install/index.html> for detailed installation instructions. Follow the regular installation.

During this installation, always prefer the recommended options. Prefer the option "install for this user only" instead of a general (shared by all users) installation on the computer. By experience, it will lead to a more stable and reliable installation.

**That's it! You are now ready to create your customized python environment(s) and prepare the virtual environment dedicated to the course.**

---