Installation of Python

We will use python bundled with a few key scientific libraries (Numpy, Scipy, and Matplotlib) in an installation called "Anaconda" that you can install on your machine. You will have to determine whether your system has a 32-bit or 64-bit processor.

Step 1: Install Python. This site will help you get started with the `anaconda` python distribution on your PC, MAC or Linux machine. If you have an existing Anaconda installation on your machine, you may want to keep it or to delete the folder prior to a new installation. Save any file in the Anaconda folder before deleting it.

Step 2. Using Python. Now that python is installed, you have several option to use it.

Option 1: Use the Ipython Notebook, also called `Jupyter`, as a method allowing you to use your web browser as a "front-end" for python. Again, go to this site to learn how to load, use, and test the Ipython Notebook.

Option 2: Use an Integrated Development Environment for Python, such as Spyder. After installing Anaconda, you should also find the "Spyder" app in the installation folder or your programs menu. It provides a nice user interface for Python. Go to this site to install Spyder.