

Module 0: Preparation

Setup

You can work on the assignment in one of two ways: locally on your own machine, or on a virtual machine on Google Cloud.

Working remotely on Google Cloud (Recommended)

Note: after following these instructions, make sure you go to **Download data** below (you can skip the **Working locally** section).

As part of this course, you can use Google Cloud for your assignments. We recommend this route for anyone who is having trouble with installation set-up, or if you would like to use better CPU/GPU resources than you may have locally. Please see the set-up tutorial [here](#) for more details. :)

Working locally

Installing Anaconda: If you decide to work locally, we recommend using the free [Anaconda Python distribution](#), which provides an easy way for you to handle package dependencies. Please be sure to download the Python 3 version, which currently installs Python 3.6. We are no longer supporting Python 2.

Anaconda Virtual environment: Once you have Anaconda installed, it makes sense to create a virtual environment for the course. If you choose not to use a virtual environment, it is up to you to make sure that all dependencies for the code are installed globally on your machine. To set up a virtual environment, run (in a terminal)

```
conda create -n cs231n python=3.6 anaconda
```

to create an environment called `cs231n`.

Then, to activate and enter the environment, run

```
source activate cs231n
```

To exit, you can simply close the window, or run

```
source deactivate cs231n
```

Note that every time you want to work on the assignment, you should run `source activate cs231n` (change to the name of your virtual env).

You may refer to [this page](#) for more detailed instructions on managing virtual environments with Anaconda.

Python virtualenv: Alternatively, you may use python [virtualenv](#) for the project. To set up a virtual environment, run the following:

```
cd assignment1
sudo pip install virtualenv      # This may already be installed
virtualenv -p python3 .env      # Create a virtual environment (python3)
# Note: you can also use "virtualenv .env" to use your default python (please note we
support 3.6)
source .env/bin/activate        # Activate the virtual environment
pip install -r requirements.txt  # Install dependencies
# Work on the assignment for a while ...
deactivate                      # Exit the virtual environment
```