

CS 1656 – Introduction to Data Science (Spring 2019)

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Setting Up Python

To get started, you will first need to check if Python is preinstalled on your machine by typing *python* on the command line. If it is, then you can get started. If it is not, then here are some resources to help you setup and start coding in Python. Please note that we will be using Python3.6.x in this course ($\geq 3.6.0$ version of Python)

a. Installation

To install python, visit <https://www.python.org/downloads/> and download any 3.6.x release for your machine.

Once the installation process is complete, type *python* in command line again. If Python does not fire up, then you will have to add python to your system *PATH* variable. You can set the path using *set* command in Windows or through the system variables dialogue box and *export* command in Mac.

If you have both Python3 and Python2 installed, please make sure that Python3 appears first on the system *PATH*.

b. IDE

You are free to use any text-editor or IDE. One option is to use PyCharm IDE with a free community edition for both Windows and Mac available here, <https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/download>

c. Package Manager

You can install python packages using pip. Pip comes pre-installed with Python3 ≥ 3.4 but you can also install it from here, <https://pip.pypa.io/en/stable/installing/>

d. Anaconda

Anaconda is a great package manager that comes with over a 100 pre-installed Python packages for Data Science and can found here: <https://www.continuum.io/downloads>

You are strongly encouraged to download Anaconda.