Authors: Andy Bean & Carrie Harris
DIFUSE Project
Dartmouth College
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How to Move a Colab to Jupyter

Summary

Install Anaconda Navigator on your Computer

Create a virtual environment with the correct library versions for the Colab file

Download the Colab as a .ipynb, launch Jupyter, and run the code in browser on Jupyter

What is this guide for?

Colab files are .ipynb files, which work with any python notebook environment. This means we can download the colab file and run it elsewhere, such as in Jupyter notebooks. If Colab updates its packages and breaks your Colab file, you might want this guide!

Instead of using Google's hosted environment that might no longer work, we can create a local virtual environment with exactly the right packages and connect to that instead. Using Jupyter also allows you to interact with files directly on your computer (so make sure you trust the code you are running since it can touch your personal files!).

Step 1: Anaconda Navigator

Anaconda Navigator is a package manager for several coding environments. Most relevant to us, it allows us to easily create a "virtual environment" that has exactly the package versions we want for our code.

Download and install Anaconda Navigator at: https://www.anaconda.com/download

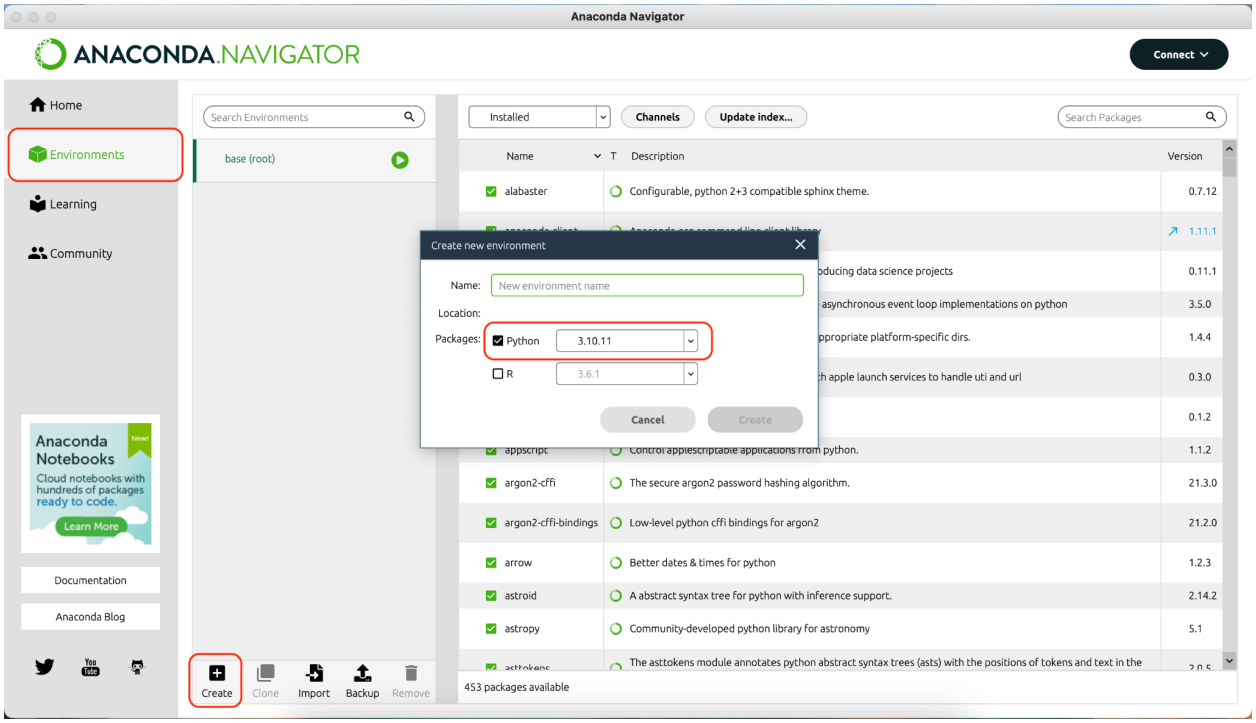
Step 2: The Virtual Environment

Create the Environment with the Right Language Version

Once Anaconda is installed, we can create the proper environment to run the Colab on. Go to “Environments” on the left, then “Create” at the bottom, and fill out the pop-up that appears with your proper version of R or Python

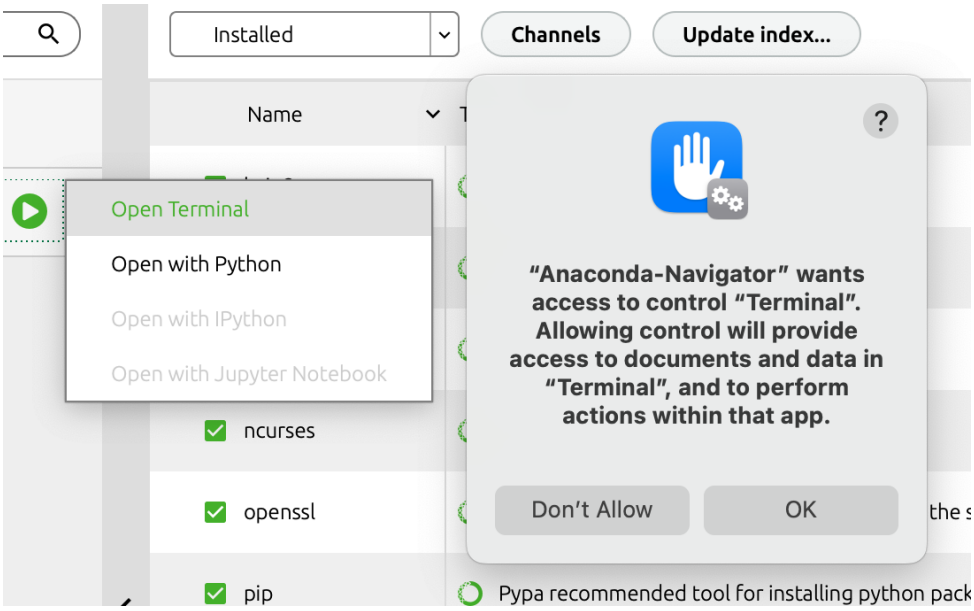
For the Astro-Imaging Colab, we want Python version 3.10.11

You can name the environment whatever you want, but a name with no spaces and no special characters is easier to use. E.g. “astroImagingEnv”



Put Packages on the Environment

Pressing “play” next to your new environment will open up a menu asking you how you want to run the environment. Select “Open Terminal” and allow Anaconda to access the computer terminal



In the terminal window that opens, we are going to install the packages we need. The command format for this is generally:

```
conda install package
```

The list of libraries we need to install is below:

```
pandas v1.5.3
matplotlib v3.7.1
ipywidgets v7.7.2
scikit-learn v1.2.2
statsmodels v0.13.5
seaborn v0.12.2
appnope v0.1.2
matplotlib-inline v0.1.6
```

A few other libraries are necessary to run these libraries (e.g. numpy, scipy), and those will be automatically installed by installing these main ones. Those other necessary libraries are called "dependencies."

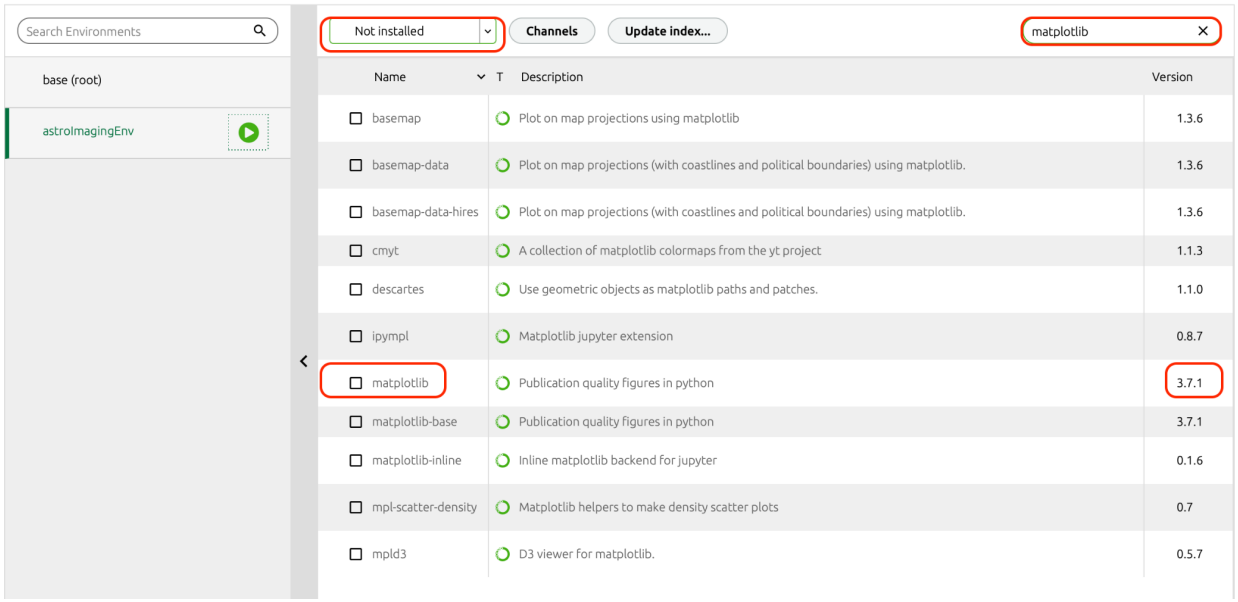
So type the following commands into your terminal and press enter to execute each command, one at a time:

```
conda install pandas
conda install matplotlib
conda install -c esri ipywidgets
conda install scikit-learn
```

```
conda install statsmodels
conda install seaborn
conda install appnope
conda install matplotlib-inline
```

After running each command, the console may say that several other packages are also needed. If the console asks you to confirm with [y]/ n, type “y” and hit enter. This is just to confirm that you agree to the packages being installed. Let the console take its time to install your packages!

If this method is a little daunting, you can also install packages through the Anaconda UI. Change your packages list to show “not installed” and then use the search bar to find a package. If that package is the right version, click the check box next to it and then press apply in the bottom right to install it. HOWEVER, we need an older version of ipywidgets, so that one has to be installed with the console command, or by adding the channel “esri” to the channels options to find and select ipywidgets version 7.7.2 instead of version 8.

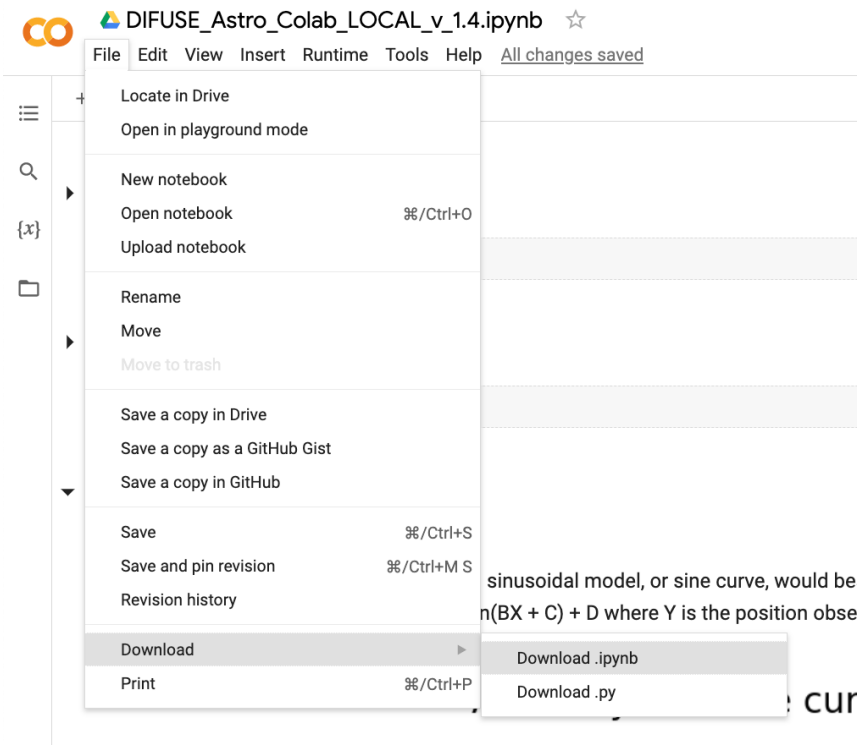


Step 3: Open the Colab in Jupyter

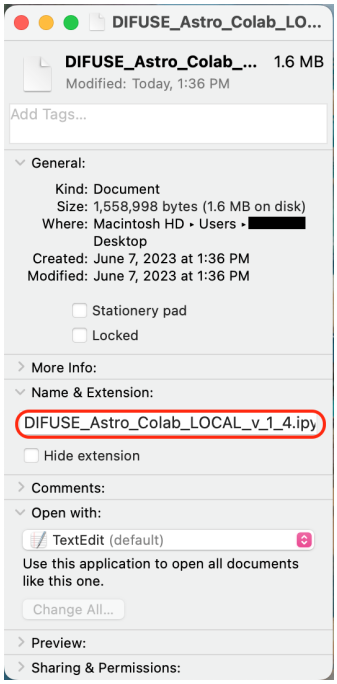
This next step requires “jupyter,” but that was automatically installed with Anaconda, so we don’t need to do anything! (If jupyter is giving you trouble, you may need to uninstall and reinstall it from the home page of Anaconda navigator)

Download the .ipynb file

First, we need to fetch the file we want to run. In the Colab file, go to “File”, then “Download,” then select “Download .ipynb” and move the downloaded file to wherever you would like to run it from.

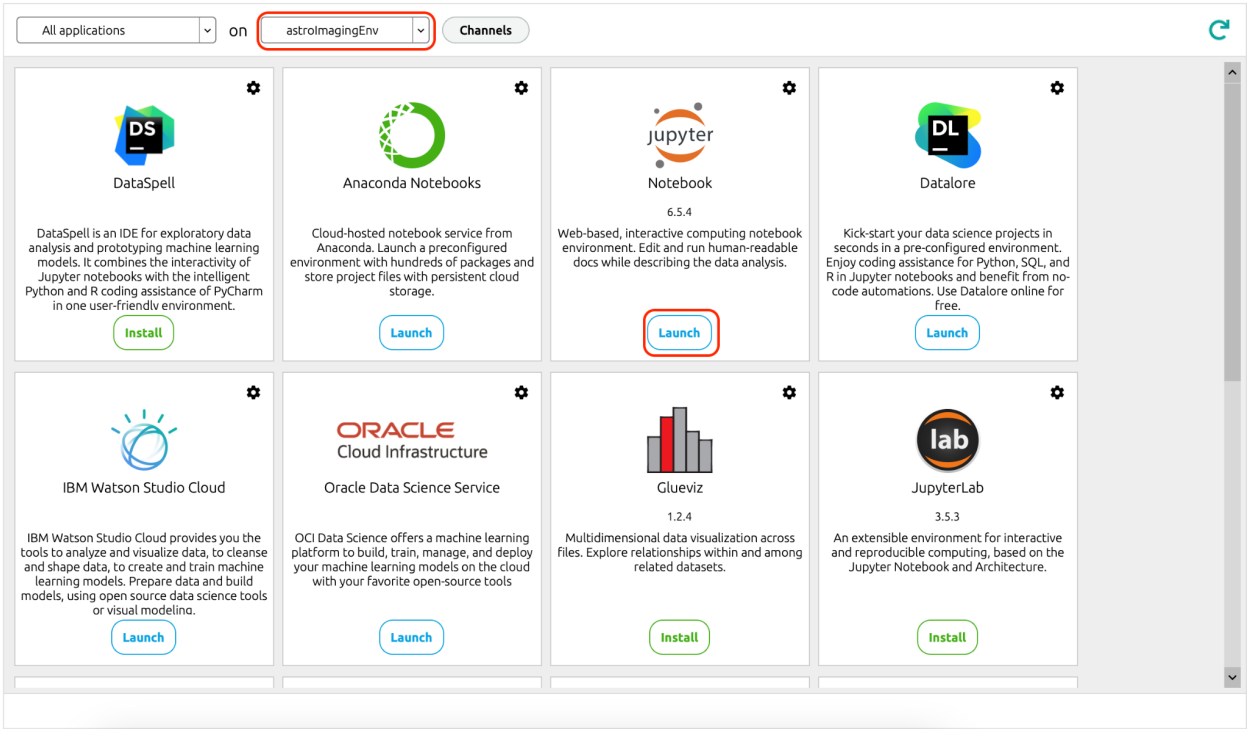


Sometimes, .ipynb files get downloaded and the computer interprets them as .txt files. If this happens, they won’t run in Jupyter. You can fix this to going to the file and deleting the “.txt” extension. If that doesn’t work, try right clicking on the file and going to “Get Info” and then editing the extension in the pop-up that appears.



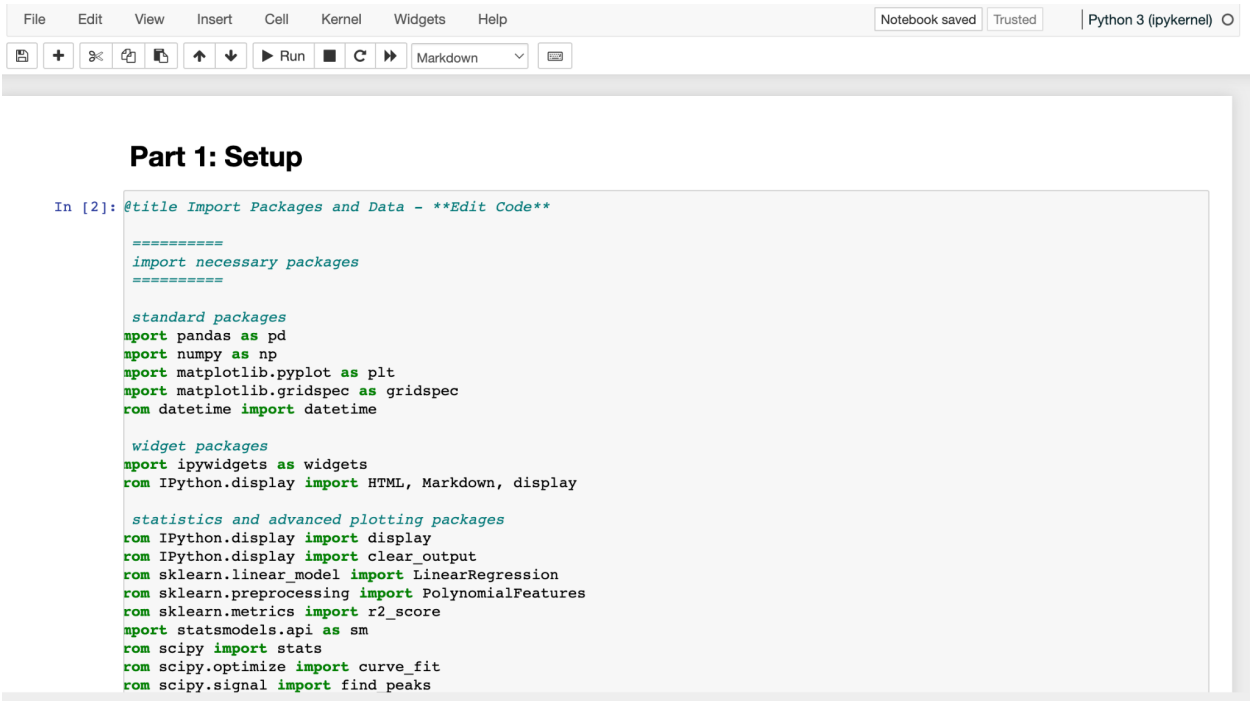
Launch Jupyter

Now we can return to the home page of Anaconda and launch Jupyter. Simply confirm that you are in the right environment in the dropdown at the top (should be the new environment you created in step 2), and then pressing “Launch.”

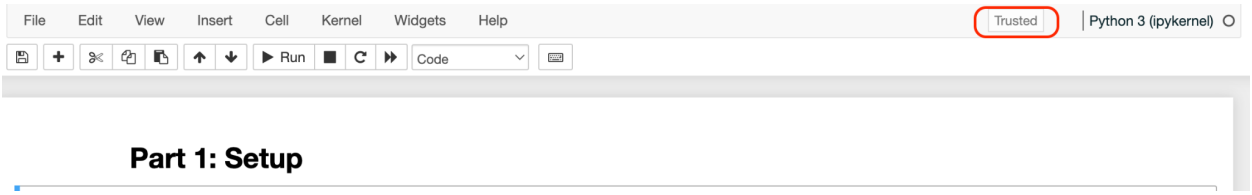


Jupyter Notebook is automatically installed with Anaconda, so you shouldn't need to install it, but if you do, the "launch" button will say "install" instead. Press install and let Anaconda work.

When Jupyter launches, it will create a local host in a browser tab that you have open. Navigate to your .ipynb file in this host tab and click it to open it in the Jupyter Notebooks viewer. The Jupyter viewer looks similar to the Colab viewer, but doesn't hide the code blocks as easily.



Before you can run the code, you will need to "trust" the notebook. If the button in the top right of your screen does not say "Trusted," click it and agree to the popup that occurs to trust the notebook and allow Jupyter to run it.



Now, you can use "Cell" and then "Run all" to run all cells as you would per the "how to Colab" instructions. To run an individual cell, click on its text and you should see a blue bar on the left side highlighting the cell you have selected. Then you can press the run button, or "Cell" → "Run Cells" to run the selected cell(s).

Notes:

A few notes:

- You'll now need to upload your files to the same place that the code itself is running from. So if the .ipynb file is on your desktop, also put the data file on your desktop
- Some packages specific to google colab can no longer be used, so those library calls and related comments will need to be commented out. If you are a module creator, consider making a separate .ipynb file without any of the google colab libraries!
- To exit out, you can quit your process from the terminal or the "home page" that appears when Jupyter is launched
- If you need to quit and connect again, you do not need to reinstall any packages, just skip to step 3 to launch your runtime!
- MOST IMPORTANT for DIFUSE module creators: Colab uses ipywidgets version 7.7.X, but Anaconda automatically provides version 8.0.X, and 8.0 is NOT backwards compatible (same thing goes for ipython). If your module is using ipywidgets and/or ipython, you will need to tell users to install an older version, such as the version in the "esri" channel:
    - Use either the different install command: `conda install -c esri ipywidgets`
    - Or instruct users to add "esri" to their available channels in the package search for Anaconda, and then select version 7.7.2 that way