**Instructions for installing and running IDL-Python Bridge on Mac OS**

(Zarro, 7/18/18)

1. Install latest Mac OS Anaconda with Python 2.7 from:

<https://www.anaconda.com/download>/#macos

1. Set environment variables so that IDL and Python can meet each other and find true love. Make sure $IDL\_DIR is pointing to IDL 8.5 and $TOP is pointing to where you installed Anaconda.

setenv PATH $TOP/anaconda2/bin:${PATH}

setenv PYTHONPATH $IDL\_DIR/lib/bridges:$SSW/gen/python/bridge

1. Run Python setup file (only need to do this once, and may need sudo):

setenv PYTHONHOME $TOP/anaconda2

cp $SSW/gen/python/bridge/setup.py $IDL\_DIR/lib/bridges

cd $IDL\_DIR/lib/bridges

python setup.py install

1. Start Python, import and start IDL bridge, and run test plot:

python

>> import bridge

>> IDL=bridge.startup()

>> IDL.run(“plot,findgen(100)”)