Welcome to COMS 1002: Computing in Context!

We are so excited for you to learn lots of valuable new information this semester but none of it can happen without learning about your coding environment and setting it up.

The course sanctioned developing environment consists of the use of Anaconda due to the vast amount of easy options available baked into the software package, so this guide will be discussing how to install Anaconda but you are very much welcome to install any other programming IDE that you happen to know or that someone you know recommends for Python development.

That being said regardless of your choice of IDE for most students in this course will need to make use of Jupyter Notebooks at some point meaning if you choose not to install Anaconda (which includes Jupyter Notebooks) then you will need to install it separately which can be done using the appropriate link in the next section.

The following link(s) can be used for the following process:

1. Free Download | Anaconda
2. Project Jupyter | Installing Jupyter
3. Visual Studio Code - Code Editing. Redefined
4. Home — Spyder IDE (spyder-ide.org)

If you are going with the Anaconda route then you only need to click the first link as it will include everything you need to get started, the others are simple suggestions for alternative solutions in the event you do not want anaconda.

Now we can begin with the installation and setup guide!

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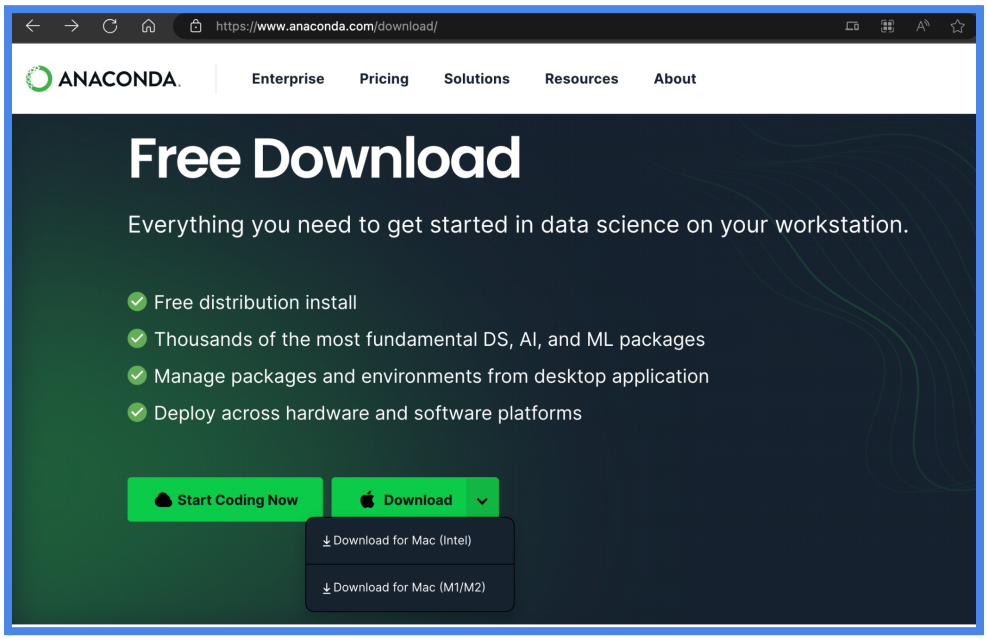
STEP 1: Install Anaconda



If you click the first link provided it will take you to this page. It will automatically detect which operating system you are currently using whether that is Mac or Windows. For Windows users you can click the download button as is but for Mac click the down arrow next to the button as displayed in the image above. Please be sure to download the appropriate version for your computer as choosing the wrong one may lead to unforeseen compatibility issues down the road.

If you are unsure of which chip you have on your Mac then click the Apple logo in the top left corner of the screen and click “About This Mac”, then information will be displayed on the pop up that follows.

Once you have successfully downloaded this, you may install it the normal way you usually install software for your device!

The setup wizard will take you through the steps of installation, at the time of writing the package size can range from 3-5 gb if you have issues during this stage of development, please request the assistance of a member of the teaching staff.

If you get past this and anaconda successfully installed then you can open up Sypder (or VS Code if the option is available whichever you prefer) and begin writing Python files of your own!

All of this should be covered in the first week of lab as well as attendance policies and what is expected of you during labs over the course of the semester!