Setting up Anaconda & Git for Windows

Data Science 1 | Sept 6th 2019

Preface

Anaconda and Git will be used extensively throughout the course, and this guide is intended to instruct the user on how to set up this software in a shell environment similar to a Unix system. Here are some key terms to understand before diving into the setup:

- **Shell:** a 'window' into the computer with which to navigate, edit, and execute commands, usually in the Bash language. Note, Windows does not have a native shell, so we will be downloading software that emulates the Unix shell. (https://dev.to/maxwell_dev/the-shell-introduction-i-wish-i-had-551k)
- **Anaconda:** a software management app that comes with a lot of useful Python tools, including editors like Jupyter and Spyder, a Python installation, and a package management interface. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anaconda_(Python_distribution)
- **Git:** a version control software, that backs up your code to an online repository, and tracks changes so that multiple people can edit the same files safely. You will be using it to "pull" updated course material from the course repository every so often. (https://opensource.com/resources/what-is-git)

Note, the steps outlined below are not the only, nor the required way to set up Anaconda and Git. Nevertheless, the following is a tried and tested method by the TF staff to get Anaconda and Git working successfully in a shell environment.

1. Setting up Git

We recommend installing the program, "Git for Windows," to use Git on a Windows machine, which can be found at this link: https://git-scm.com/download/win

Once you have downloaded the app, fire it up and type in

```
git --version
```

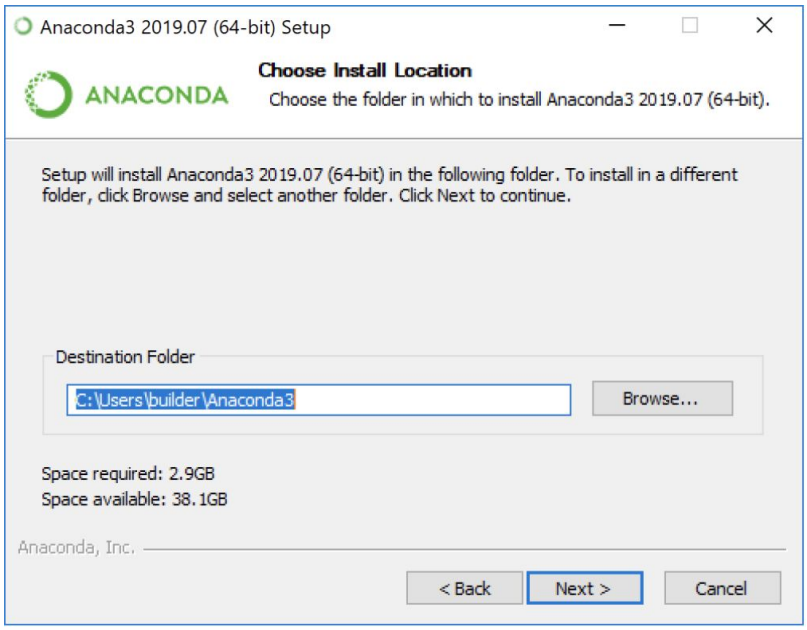
You should then see the version of Git that came installed with the application.

2. Installing Anaconda

To download Anaconda, use the following link: https://www.anaconda.com/distribution/

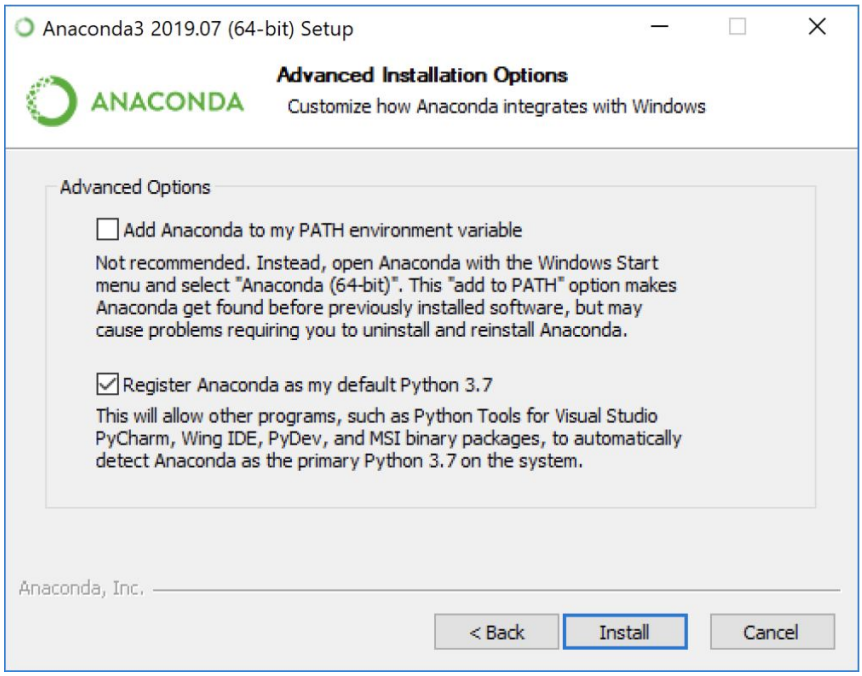
After downloading, launch the executable **as administrator** to ensure you can install it in your directory of choice.

Click through the installation windows until it asks you where you'd like to install Anaconda:



By default, if you ran the program as an administrator, the path should be set to 'C:/ProgramFiles/Anaconda3'. The exact path doesn't matter, but what is incredibly important is that **there cannot be any spaces in the path to Anaconda**.

After choosing an installation path, continue to navigate through the installation until you come to this window:



Click the box that says "**Add Anaconda to my PATH environment variable**" even though it's not recommended. This will allow you to use the conda commands to set up the virtual environment for the course detailed in lab1.

Go ahead and finish the installation of Anaconda (it may take a few minutes to install). To check that everything works correctly, type

```
conda --version
```

in the Git for Windows app we installed earlier, and ensure the command is recognized.

3. Optional Customization

If you want the flexibility to open multiple Git for Windows tabs easily. One option for adding this customization is to use ConEmu which can launch different kinds of shells all in one application (download: https://conemu.github.io/en/Downloads.html).

Here is a link detailing some of the customization options if you want to use ConEmu to launch Git for Windows: https://superuser.com/questions/454380/git-bash-here-in-conemu