

# Miniconda

**Miniconda:** free minimal installer for conda. It is a small, bootstrap version of Anaconda that includes only conda, Python, the packages they depend on, and a small number of other useful packages, including pip, zlib and a few others.

Both **Anaconda** and **Miniconda** uses **Conda** as the package manager.

The **difference** among **Anaconda** and **Miniconda** is that **Miniconda** only comes the package management system. So when you install it, there is just the management system and not coming **with a** bundle of pre-installed packages like **Anaconda** does.

Difference between anaconda and miniconda:

1. **Number of packages:** Anaconda comes with over 150 data science packages, whereas miniconda comes with only a handful.
2. **Interface:** Anaconda has a graphical user interface (GUI) called the Navigator, while miniconda has a command-line interface.

In other words, miniconda is a *mini* version of Anaconda. Miniconda ships with just the repository management system and a few packages. Whereas, with Anaconda, you have the distribution of some 150 built-in packages.

## How to choose

Choose Anaconda if you:

- Are new to conda or Python
- Like the convenience of having Python and over 150 scientific packages automatically installed at once
- Have the time and disk space (a few minutes and 3 GB)
- Don't want to have to individually install each of the packages you want to use

Choose miniconda if you:

- Do not mind individually installing each of the packages you want to use
- Do not have time or disk space to install over 150 packages at once
- Want fast access to Python and the conda commands and wish to sort out the other programs later.