

Adding python to your path in Windows.

This file helps you determine with Python is on your PATH and how to add it. For most students, you should use the Anaconda Prompt instead. This is simpler and there is nothing to do. Windows has cmd.exe, called the command prompt, but it may not have python set up correctly. **If you go to the start menu, then to Anaconda, you will find Anaconda Prompt. This will work and you can ignore the rest of this file.**

1. CHECK TO SEE IF PYTHON IS ALREADY ON YOUR PATH

If you open a command prompt and enter the command

python

yet python does not run, it may be that python is not on your PATH (this is the list of directories that Windows searches for a program that you command it to run). You can check this by running the command

PATH

and looking for Anaconda or Anaconda3 in the list that results. As this is a long list, you might prefer to enter the command

PATH > mypath.txt

This will create a text file called mypath.txt containing the path. You can open this (click on it from Windows Explorer) and use Notepad's capability to search for anaconda

If python is not in the PATH, then you will need to add it.

2. IF NOT ON YOUR PATH, FIND PYTHON

First, we need to find where python is. If your user name is wboyd (that is, mine, and we'll use it for this example), then it is likely in

C:\Users\wboyd\Anaconda3

It might be in C:\Users\Anaconda3 or it might be in a folder named Anaconda instead of Anaconda3.

To check, enter the command (replace this path with the path to python on your computer).

C:\Users\wboyd\Anaconda3\python

If this runs python, then the directory (path)

C:\Users\wboyd\Anaconda3

needs to be added to PATH.

Write down the path to your copy of anaconda python. We'll now show you how to add it to your PATH.

3. ADD PYTHON TO YOUR PATH

In the little box entitled 'Type here to search' type

edit environment variable

and click on it. This will bring up the window that you need.

In the upper pane, highlight 'Path', then click the Edit button below the pane. This will display your PATH variables. Now click the New button. This will give you a place to type the path that you just wrote down. When done click OK until the windows all go away.

Now open a cmd.exe and you should be able to see Anaconda3 on your PATH and to run python.