Loading Python on Windows

**1) Using Anaconda for Python on Windows**

My favorite Python for windows is the Spyder that is installed as part of Anaconda. Spyder is an integrated interface for writing and running python programs.

Here is a You Tube video that shows how to install Anaconda (which includes Spyder)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mDYijMfSzs>

I have a direct link to Spyder on my desktop so I don’t need to start it by starting ‘Anaconda Navigator’ first as is done in the video. Anaconda has lots of pre-loaded packages including the image package. So if you use it, you shouldn’t have to worry about downloading the python Image package. Anaconda is large (3 Gb on your computer) but most people have lots of disk space.

**2) Two versions of Python are used 2.7 (old) and 3.\* (new)**

There are 2 versions of Python. Python 2.7 and Python 3.\*. I downloaded the 2.7 (old) version of anaconda (anaconda2) for two reasons:

1) I used notes from a Stanford intro python class and that’s what they recommended.

2) On the Raspberry Pi, I have to download the Python packages and when I started, not all 2.7 packages had been ported to 3.5.

The main difference (for my program) between 2.7 and 3.5 is that the print function is different. 2.7 uses

print ‘this is a ‘, a

And 3.\* uses

print (‘this is a’, a)

However, 2.7 allows print (‘this is a’, a), it just prints the results in parenthesis.

So, my programs should work for either 2.7 or 3.5. The current python version is 3.7.1, but I have only tested my programs with 2.7 and 3.5.

**3) Another option for running Python (IDLE environment)**

Another option for running Python (with the IDLE integrated environment) is to download python from the Python Software Foundation. Here’s a link that should work that I got from a Google search of ‘download python idle windows’:

<https://www.python.org/downloads/>

I think this uses less diskspace on your computer, but you may have to download some of the packages. On the Raspberry Pi, the python that is included does not have very many packages. I’m not sure about windows.

**4) Another option for getting Python would be an intro Python tutorial.**

These should be available online and should show how to load python on your computer. As my jpg programs should run with either version of python (2.7 or 3.\*), just use whatever version is used for the tutorial. Hopefully it either includes the Image package or shows you how to download it for python.