

CS5710 – Installing Python and Spyder

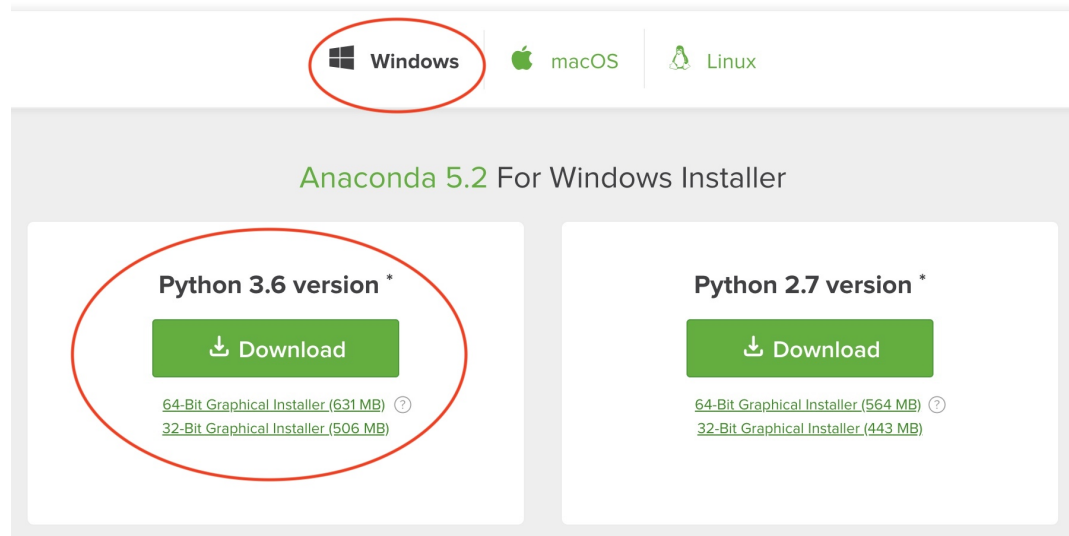
January 24, 2024

1 Downloading the Python Installer

To download the free [Anaconda](#) Python distribution:

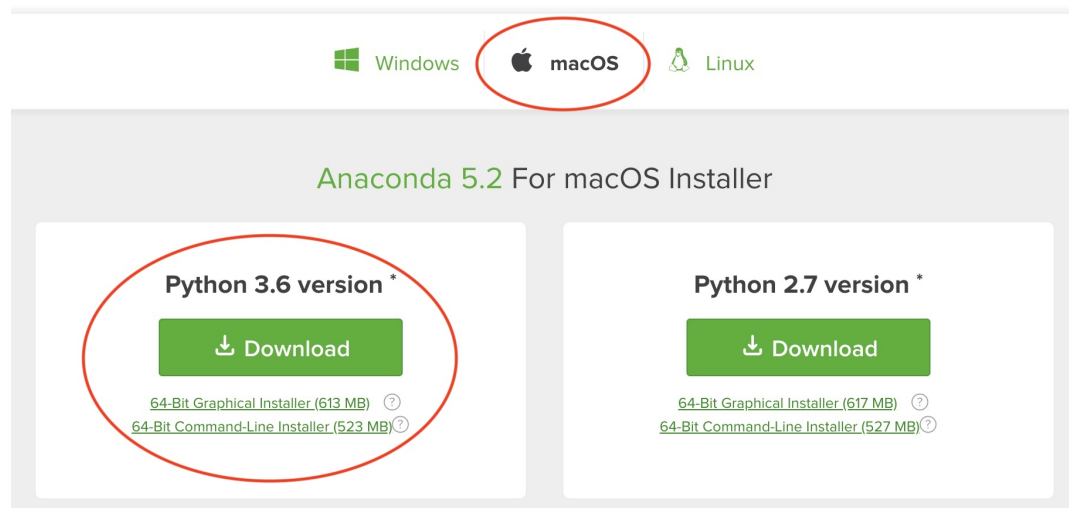
1. Visit the Anaconda [download](#) page. NOTE: the installer we'll be downloading and installing is larger than the average file, because it contains Python, associated packages, a code editor, and some other toys. It may take 15–20 minutes in total to download and install when executing the commands.
2. Windows Operating System: There are two versions of the installer, one for 32-bit Windows, and one for 64-bit Windows. Microsoft provides instructions [here](#) to determine (relatively easily) if you have a 32 or 64-bit setup. If you are running 32-bit Windows, be sure that you select the 32-bit version, and if you are running 64-bit Windows, you can download either version.

The class is taught using Python 3.5 or higher. Do not download any other version.



3. MacOS: There is only one version of the installer: the 64-bit version. There is no a 32-bit installer for Macintosh, since Macs post-2011 are 64-bit only.

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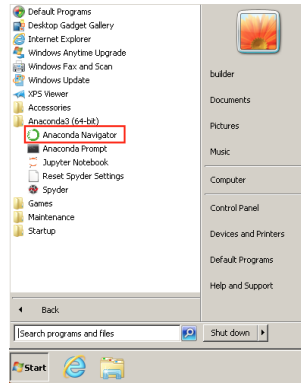
2 Installing Python and Spyder

1. To install Python after downloading the installer, double click the .exe (Windows) or .pkg (Mac) file and follow the instructions on the screen. There are some additional notes and comments on installing/uninstalling Python on the Anaconda website [here](#).
2. Note that the Anaconda Python distribution should install cleanly into a single directory, should not require Administrator or root privileges, and should not affect other Python installs on your system (if you have any), or interfere with OSX Frameworks. Let us know via Email if you're having any issues.
3. When installing Anaconda, a pop-up menu may ask whether or not to "Add Anaconda to my PATH environment variable", and "Register Anaconda as my default Python 3.6."" We suggest accepting both options for the purposes of this class.
4. Explore the Anaconda "Getting Started" guide [here](#).

3 Starting Spyder, an IDE

When you download and install the Anaconda distribution of Python, you are getting several tools related to Python development. One of the tools is Spyder (Scientific Python Development Environment), an integrated development environment useful for writing, running, and debugging code. There are two primary ways to access the tools and open Spyder:

1. Windows OS: The Anaconda folder from the Start menu.



2. Mac OS: Open Launchpad, then click the Anaconda Navigator icon. It should open the Anaconda Navigator. Click the blue "Launch" button underneath "spyder" to launch Spyder. It should take a moment to load and may appear to pause for a few minutes.

