

Instructions for Installing FFmpeg

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1 Introduction

As part of problem 4 in homework set 1, you will run code to visualize stochastic gradient descent. In order to generate animations, you may need to install FFmpeg, which includes a library for handling multimedia data. This document contains instructions for installing FFmpeg. Please refer to the section corresponding to your operating system.

2 Windows

The instructions for Windows (along with accompanying images!) can be found at <http://adaptivesamples.com/how-to-install-ffmpeg-on-windows/>, and the steps are also restated below:

1. Go to <http://ffmpeg.zeranoe.com/builds/>.
2. Select either the 32-bit or 64-bit version depending on your computer. Under ‘linking,’ select ‘static.’ I chose the first of the versions listed (the one that is updated daily). Download the build.
3. Unzip to a folder that’s easy to find, such as in your C:\ drive. Rename it to ‘ffmpeg’.
4. In the ‘ffmpeg’ folder, there is a bin folder containing the ffmpeg.exe file. To run commands easily, this folder must be added to the system path:
 - In the start menu, right click on ‘Computer’ and choose ‘Properties’
 - Select ‘Advanced system settings’
 - Click on ‘Environment Variables’
 - Edit the variable called ‘Path’, adding ‘C:\ffmpeg\bin’ to the end of the line. Make sure that there’s a semi-colon separating ‘C:\ffmpeg\bin’ from the previous folder in the list.
5. Finally, check that FFmpeg has installed properly. To do this, first open a command prompt; this can be done by typing ‘cmd’ into the start menu. When you type ‘ffmpeg -codecs’ into the command prompt, it should print out a list of all the codecs—for encoding or decoding audio or video data—to which you have access.

3 Mac

To install FFmpeg on a Mac, you can use Homebrew (<https://brew.sh/>). The steps are as follows:

1. If you don’t have Homebrew, install it. Do this by typing
`/usr/bin/ruby -e "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/master/install)"`
at a Terminal prompt.
2. Next, type `brew install ffmpeg` in your Terminal prompt, and wait for it to finish installing.
3. Finally, check that FFmpeg installed properly by typing `ffmpeg` at a Terminal prompt. You should see information about the version if it installed.