Instructions on how to install Miniconda, and Launch the Exercise

We recommend that you install Miniconda. Miniconda is a small version of Anaconda[1], which is a Python distribution that comes with its own package management system, `conda`. Using `conda`, you can install and upgrade software packages and libraries. It will make managing the versions of the libraries you use very convenient.

Go to the conda website, https://docs.conda.io/en/latest/miniconda.html and download the **Python 3.9 version** for your operating system.

Now we have to install some essential packages which we will need in the upcoming exercises. Most importantly, we will install Jupyter Notebook, which is the web-application we will use for the exercises. Luckily for you, we have gathered all the packages we will need in the file *requirements.txt,* included in this folder. Open a terminal window (or *Anaconda Prompt* if you are on Windows) and navigate to the directory of this exercise. Then type

```
conda install --yes --file requirements.txt
```

(Be careful if you are copy-pasting the line because sometimes -- is converted to — and can cause an error!)

And all the packages, including Jupyter, will be installed. To verify the installation, type

```
python test_install.py
```

If Python cannot find one of the required packages, the script will print an error, otherwise if everything is installed correctly, nothing should be printed in the terminal.

To launch Jupyter Notebook, open a terminal window and navigate to the folder (using the command `cd`) where you downloaded the exercise. Then type

```
jupyter notebook
```

And the interface should launch in a new browser window or a tab.

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[1] If you already have Anaconda installed, you don't need to install Miniconda ontop.