Small Anaconda Guide (from Thursday tutorial session)

Installation

Go to the anaconda download page (if you have a 32bit operating system you can go to minicona)

https://www.anaconda.com/download/

https://docs.conda.io/en/latest/miniconda.html

Download the suitable installer for your operating system and execute it (potentially you will need to run it as administrator by right click and selecting said option).

Click yourself through the installer and install it, here you will likely not have to watch any option, but you should read all options and make up your mind for yourself just in case.

After installing you may need to restart your computer.

Then you search for the Anaconda Command Prompt, I recommend just searching in the search bar until you find it or checking the installation folder. Afterwards you can also pin it to your taskbar or create a desktop shortcut.

Working in the Anaconda Prompt

In the Anaconda Prompt you will need to create environments with libraries you will need to install over the course. For this I recommend creating an empty environment with a recent python version and then filling it up with packages as need be in the following weeks.

When starting the prompt you will be greeted by a window like this:

From this window you can type the following commands to navigate to folders and to clear the text in case it gets too cluttery:

Name	Description	Example
cd	Change working directory. Can be used either to go to a specific directory or to navigate to a folder from the current directory.	cd C:/Users/User/folder cd folder
Cls	Clears all written text.	cls

When you first run the command prompt you will also need to run “conda update conda” to update anaconda one time before use in case it is not fully updated yet. Then you can also run “conda install pip” to install pip which will be used later for installing packages.

To create an environment, you can use the following commands:

Command	Description
conda env BPP -python=3.8	Create an environment named BPP with python 3.8.
conda activate BPP	Will activate that environment (needs to be run before installing or running code).
conda deactivate	Disables the current environment to move to a different one.
conda list	Lists all packages installed in active environment.
conda env list	Lists all environments you created with names.
conda env remove Name	Removes the environment Name.

Then, with active environment, you can install the following packages since they will be used in the coming weeks:

Name	Command
Numpy	pip install numpy
Pandas	pip install pandas
Matplotlib	pip install matplotlib
Jupyter Lab	pip install jupyterlab

Should pip install fail, try running “conda install pip” again.
If you want to install another package in the future, simply run the pip install command for it with this environment active.

Congratulations, you are now ready to go for this course :)

Running Jupyter Lab

To run Jupyter Lab to open notebooks, you need to have an active environment with it installed and run “jupyter lab” or, in case it does not work, “jupyter notebook” and it will open a browser window with it.

Google Colab

Additionally, you can also use Google Colab, accessible from this link.

https://colab.research.google.com/

You probably need a gmail account though, but this provides a lot of functionality and makes opening jupyter notebooks in browser possible without having to install anaconda or packages at all, however, you should still install python regardless.