

Instructions for Installing IPython

The software we will need this term is in a diverse set of files developed by many different groups. The first thing we want to do is to install a **package manager** that will automate the process of finding and installing these software packages (called “libraries” in Python).

The program we recommend is named Anaconda, from a company named Continuum Analytics (<https://www.anaconda.com>). It’s free software, and it’s easy to install and use.

It’s also huge and has way more software than we’ll ever need. Fortunately they make a slimmed down version called “Miniconda”.

Step 1: Install Miniconda

Linux

Start a terminal session, then type this command to download the installer (make sure you type it all on one line):

```
$ curl https://repo.continuum.io/miniconda/Miniconda3-latest-Linux-x86_64.sh > conda_install.sh
```

Now type this command to run the installer:

```
$ bash conda_install.sh
```

The installer will ask you lots of questions. Simply answer “yes” or hit return for every question except the last one.

Important: The last question will be “do you want to prepend the path to ~/.bashrc”. Here the default answer is “no” but you want to type “yes”.

Windows 10

There are installers for Windows, but if you use one of them Anaconda will not be accessible from bash. Instead, start bash and type a cd command that takes you to your Windows home directory:

```
$ cd /mnt/c/Users/x
```

where x is your Windows user name. Now follow the same instructions given above for using curl to download and install Miniconda on Linux.

macOS

Follow the instructions given above for Linux, except the name of the file you want has “MacOSX” instead of “Linux”:

```
Miniconda3-latest-MacOSX-x86_64.sh
```

Step 2: Install IPython

There is now a new command line application named conda on your system. Your current shell doesn’t know about it, but from now on each time you start the terminal emulator it will be there.

Open a new terminal window and type this command to download and install IPython:

```
$ conda install ipython
```

Answer “yes” or hit the return key when it asks if you want to proceed. If you’re curious to see what sorts of software libraries you now have you can type this command to have conda print a list of things it installed:

```
$ conda list
```