Installing Python and IDLE on a Mac

We will be running Python 3.3.5 together with NumPy 1.8.0 and MatPlotLib 1.3.1. Versions matter, so please don't download the wrong one!

Go to:
https://www.python.org/downloads/release/python-335/
Click on Mac OS X 64-bit/32-bit installer in the left column, unless you're running a version of Mac OS older than 10.6 (in which case click on Mac OS X 32-bit i386/PPC installer)

Double Click on python.mpkg. The default settings are fine.

IDLE comes with Python. You can find it under the Applications tab on the bottom of your screen. Click on Python, then IDLE and it'll start. You can also drag and drop it to the dock.

Test by opening IDLE and typing 3+5 then enter. IDLE should print an '8'

Next, we need a couple of packages.

To download NumPy 1.8.0, go to
numpy-1.8.0-py3.3-python.org-macosx10.6.dmg
Double click where it says "Double-click to install"
Click continue over and over and then install. The default location is fine.

Test by opening IDLE, typing import numpy then enter, then typing abs(-1) and enter. Python should print '1'

To download MatPlotLib 1.3.1, go to
matplotlib-1.3.1-py3.3-python.org-macosx10.6.dmg
Wait 5 seconds till the download pops up.
Select the default option of "Open with" DiskImageMounter (default)
Now a finder window pops up containing a .mpkg file.
Double click on mpkg file

Test by typing the following lines into IDLE
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
plt.plot([1,2,3,4])
plt.ylabel('some numbers')
plt.show()

A graph should pop up and that's how you know it works.