Installing Python and IDLE on a Mac

We will be running Python 3 together with NumPy 1.8 and MatPlotLib 1.3.1. Versions matter, so please don’t download the wrong one!

Go to:

<https://www.python.org/downloads/>

Click on the newest version of Python 3 (as of today it’s 3.5) [Mac OS X 64-bit/32-bit installer](http://www.python.org/ftp/python/3.3.5/python-3.3.5-macosx10.6.dmg) 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](http://www.python.org/ftp/python/3.3.5/python-3.3.5-macosx10.5.dmg))

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’

While it’s open, now is a good time to pin IDLE to your doc, so you can always open it. Right click the IDLE icon in the dock at the bottom of your screen. Select Options then Keep in Dock.

Next, we need a couple of packages.

You can download NumPy 1.8.0 from the course webpage. It’s a **dmg** file, named

numpy-1.8.0-py3.3-python.org-macosx10.6.dmg

Once you have it downloaded, click that dmg file. A window pops up with a picture of a box and with a folder. Double click the box. It should be called

numpy-1.8.0-py3.3.mpkg

You may need to change your security settings, if a security warning pops-up. To do so, click the apple in the upper left of your screen, then select System Preferences from the drop-down, then select Security and Privacy (the picture looks like a house), then select the General Tab, and click the lock in the lower left part of the screen. Type your password and select the option to allow apps from Anywhere. Now go back to the dmg file and double-click the mpkg box.

Click Continue over and over and then Install. The default location is fine.

You can download MatPlotLib 1.3.1 from the course webpage. The file is called

[matplotlib-1.3.1-py3.3-python.org-macosx10.6.dmg](https://downloads.sourceforge.net/project/matplotlib/matplotlib/matplotlib-1.3.1/matplotlib-1.3.1-py3.3-python.org-macosx10.6.dmg)

Now a finder window pops up containing a .mpkg file.

Double click on the mpkg file. Click Continue over and over till it’s finished.

To test that you’ve correctly installed everything, open IDLE then go to File 🡪 New File, and type the following lines into IDLE. Actually type them in; don’t copy/paste.

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

plt.plot([1,2,3,4])

plt.ylabel(‘some numbers’)

plt.show()

At the top of the screen click Run 🡪 Run Module. You’ll be prompted to save the file. Call it something like testingMPL.py

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