Installing Python and IDLE on a Mac

We will be running Python 3.3.5 together with the newest versions of NumPy and MatPlotLib. 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](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’

Next, we need to install the NumPy and MatPlotLib packages, which thankfully can be done by a single line in the Terminal.

Go to the Searchlight (looks like a magnifying glass) in the upper right corner of your screen, next to the date and time.

Type Terminal, then click the black icon (should be the top of your search results).

Copy and paste the following line directly into the terminal.

**sudo /Library/Frameworks/Python.framework/Versions/3.5/bin/pip3 install matplotlib**

You can copy by highlighting the text and pressing Command + C simultaneously, and you can paste with Command + V, where Command is the button to the left of the spacebar on your keyboard. Once the text is in the terminal, push Return.

At this point, you’ll be asked to enter your password. It’s the same password you use when you restart your machine. Then Python will take care of the installation.

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.