STUDENT HANDOUT

How to Install Anaconda with Python on Windows

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Course: Atelier : Python ou R pour l'analyse urbaine (UEM1.1.2)

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Installer screens and version numbers may change slightly over time.

By the end of this guide you will be able to:

- download Anaconda safely from the official website;
- install it correctly;
- open Anaconda Navigator and Anaconda Prompt;
- check that Python and conda work, and run your first Python command.

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1 What is Anaconda?

Python is a popular programming language. It is easy to read, which is why many people learn it first.

Anaconda Distribution is a bundle that installs Python *and* many useful tools in one go. You do not have to collect and set them up one by one.

Why use Anaconda instead of installing Python alone?

- It installs Python and data-science tools together.
- It includes **conda**, a tool that installs and manages add-on packages (extra Python libraries) for you.
- It includes tools such as **Jupyter Notebook** and **Spyder** for writing code.

Two programs you will use:

- **Anaconda Navigator** is a window with buttons and menus (a *graphical interface*). It lets you open tools and manage packages without typing commands.
- **Anaconda Prompt** is a text window where you *type* commands. It is a special terminal that comes with Anaconda on Windows. On macOS and Linux you use the normal **Terminal** instead.

2 Before you start

- **Operating system:** Windows 10 (version 1809 or later) or Windows 11, 64-bit.
- **Disk space:** at least **7.5 GB** free to download and install.
- **Internet:** needed to download the installer. Use a stable connection.
- **Administrator rights:** *not needed* if you choose **Just Me** (recommended) during installation.
- **Is my PC 64-bit?** Press **Windows key + I**, then go to **System** > **About**. Next to **System type** it should say *64-bit operating system, x64-based processor*.

Windows version note

Anaconda stopped supporting new package releases on Windows 10 on June 30, 2026, and will stop for Windows 11 version 23H2 and earlier on November 10, 2026. **Windows 11 with current updates is the best choice.**

3 Download Anaconda

1. Open your web browser and go to `https://www.anaconda.com/download`.
2. Find the section **Anaconda Distribution** (under *Build with Python*). **Do not click Kilo.** Kilo is a different product shown on the same page.
3. Click **Download Anaconda Distribution**. Anaconda will ask you to **register or sign in** with an email address. This is normal. Follow the on-screen steps.
4. Choose **Windows 64-Bit Graphical Installer**.
5. Wait for the download. It is a large file (an `.exe`). The file name looks like this (the numbers change with each release; that is fine):

```
Anaconda3-2026.07-1-Windows-x86_64.exe
```

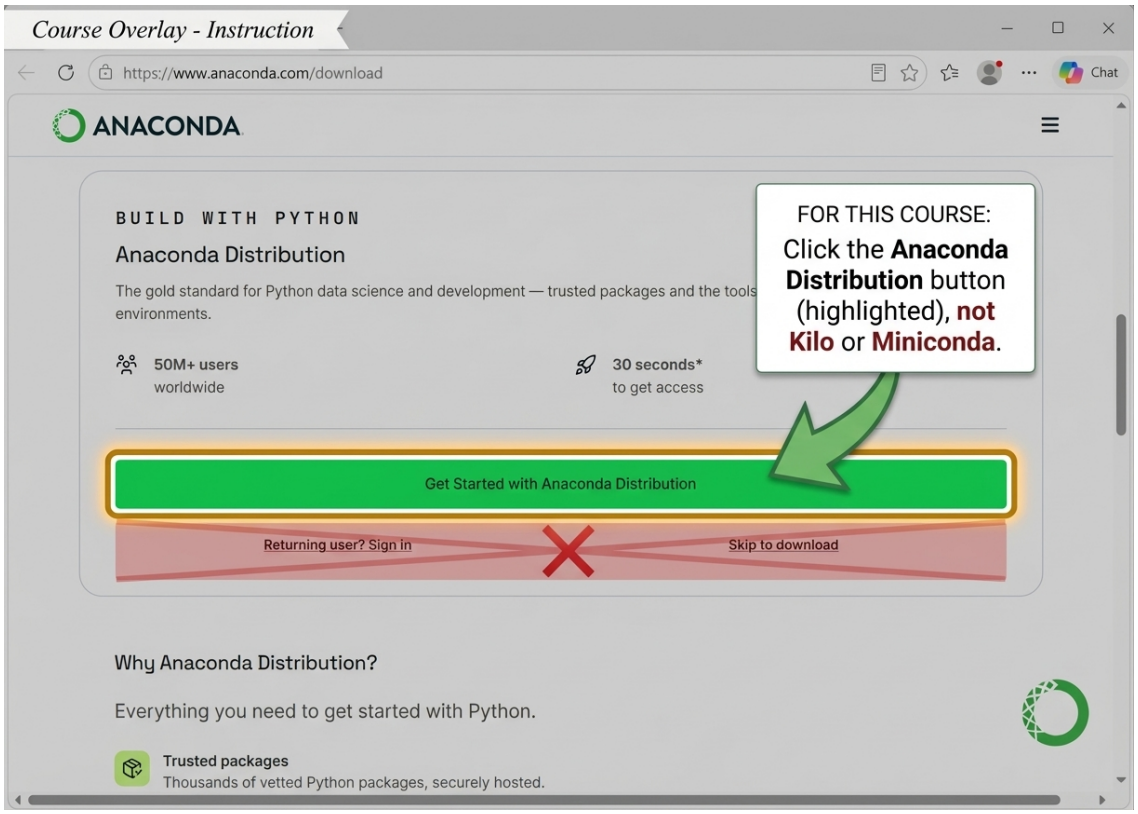

Figure 1: The anaconda.com/download page. Click the Anaconda Distribution button, not Kilo or Miniconda.

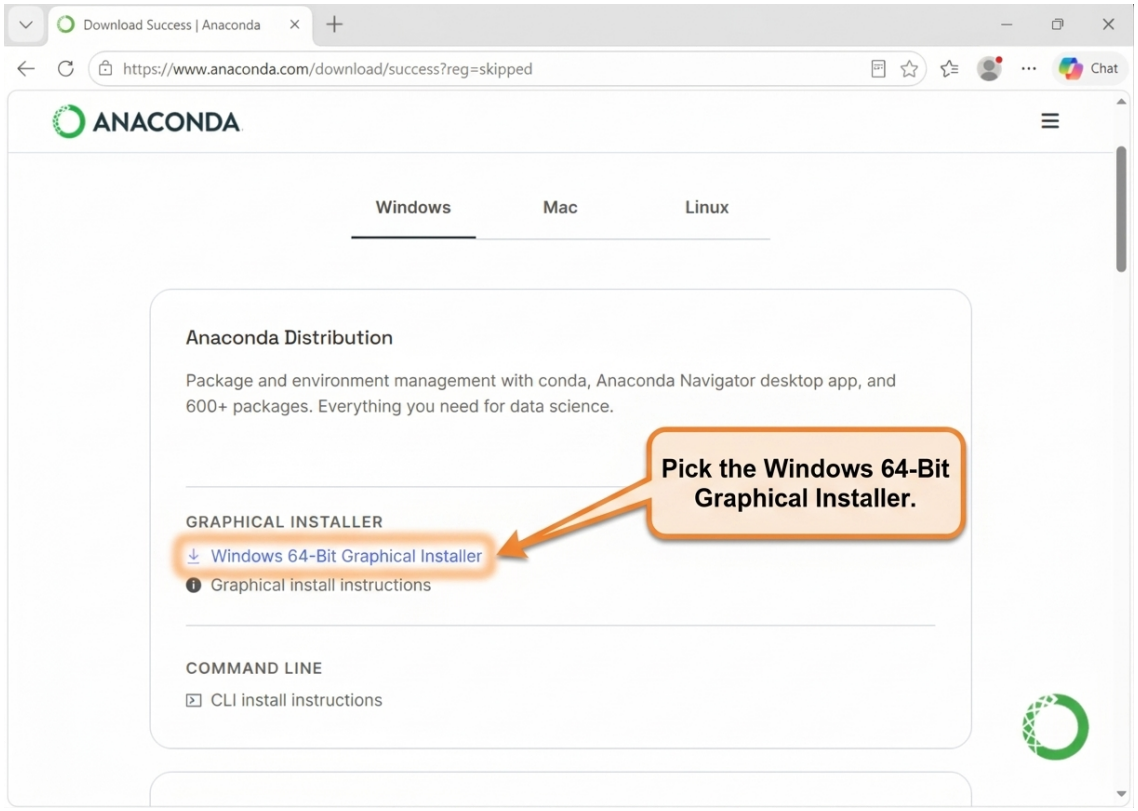

Figure 2: The installer choice. Pick the Windows 64-Bit Graphical Installer.

Stay safe

- Download only from **anaconda.com** (or **repo.anaconda.com**, Anaconda's official file server).
- Avoid search-engine ads and "free download" sites. They can offer fake or harmful installers.
- Do **not** pick Miniconda. It is a smaller installer without Anaconda Navigator.

About licensing

Anaconda's Terms of Service set the conditions for using Anaconda Distribution. According to Anaconda, organizations with more than 200 employees or contractors need a paid license unless they qualify for discounted or free use. You can read the full terms at `https://www.anaconda.com/legal`.

4 Install Anaconda

1. Open your **Downloads** folder and **double-click** the installer.
   - **Do not** run it from the Windows **Favorites** folder. That can cause permission errors. If needed, move the file to Downloads first.
2. Click **Next** on the Welcome screen.

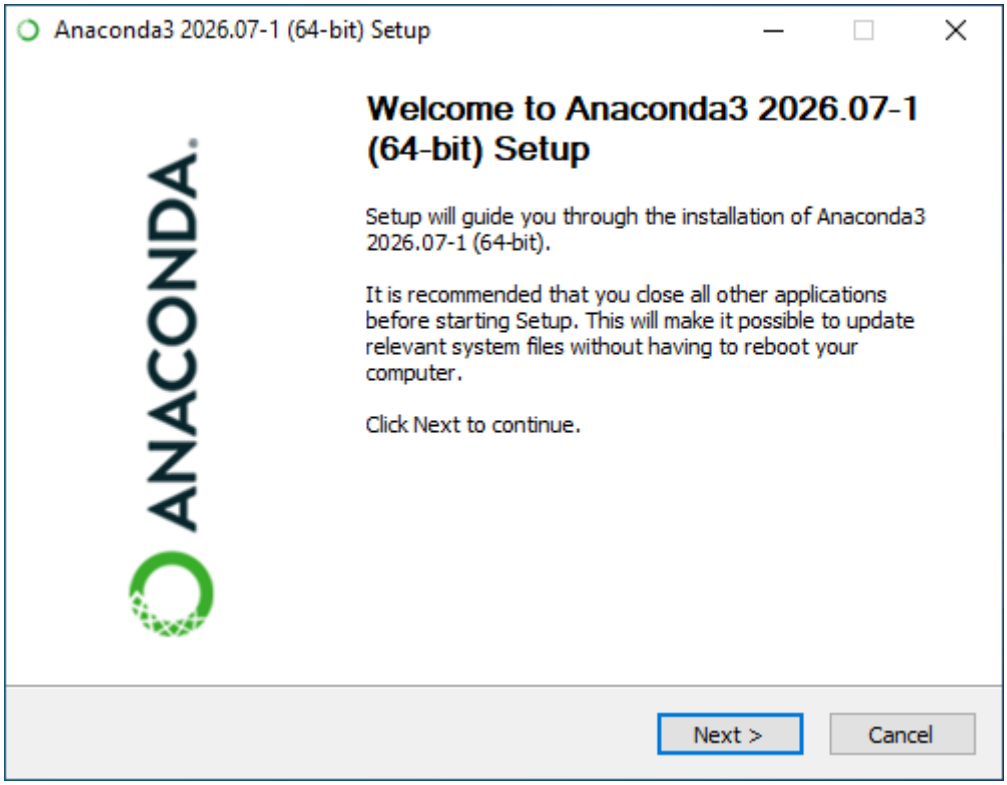

Figure 3: Installer welcome screen. Click Next.

3. Read the license agreement (Anaconda's Terms of Service) and click **I Agree**.

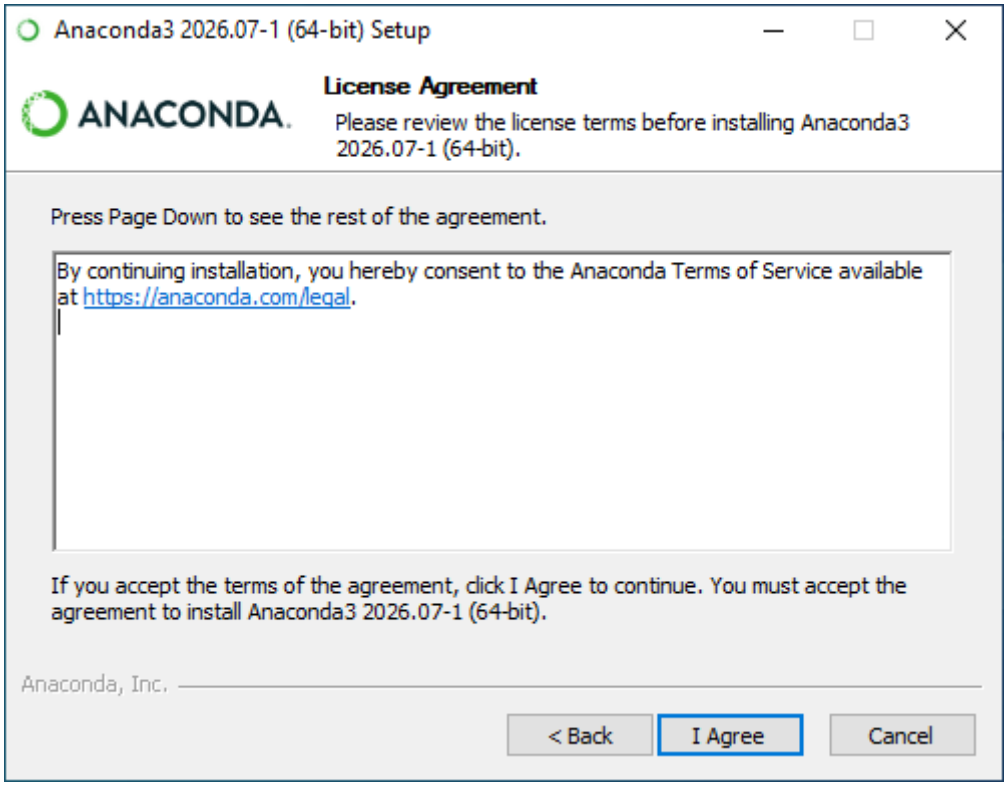

Figure 4: License agreement screen. Click I Agree to continue.

4. **Installation Type.** Choose **Just Me (Recommended)** and click **Next**.

- **Just Me**: installs for your account only. No administrator rights needed. This is the most reliable choice.
- **All Users**: installs for everyone on the PC and needs administrator rights. Avoid it unless you are told to use it.

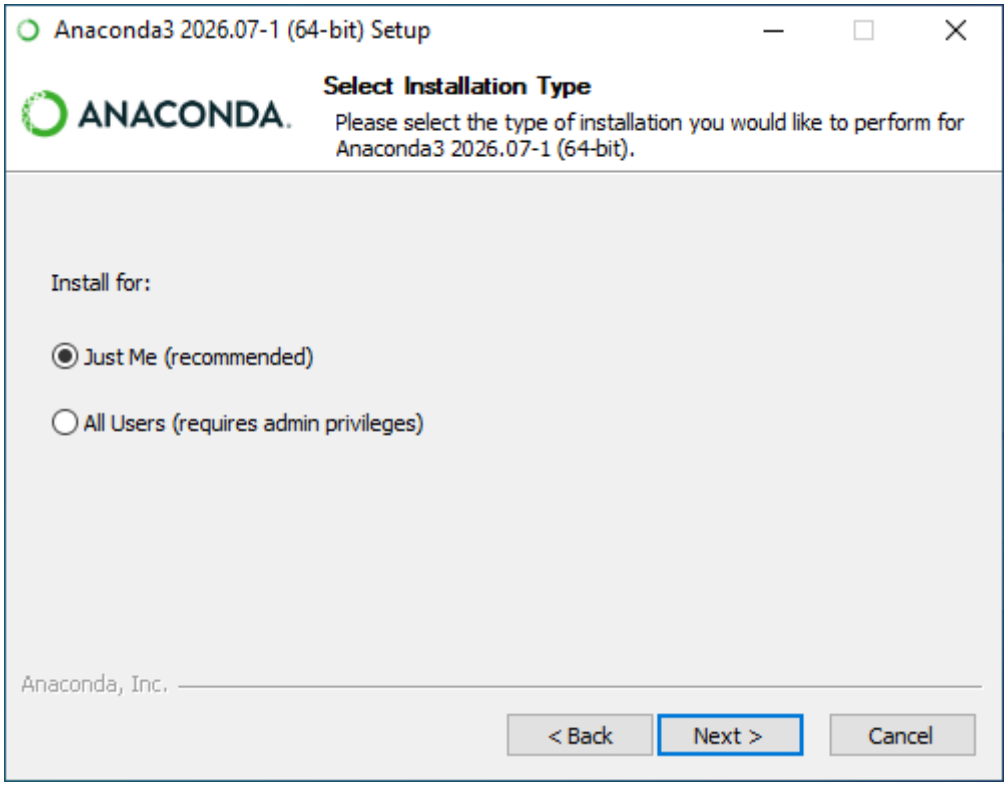

Figure 5: “Select Installation Type” screen with “Just Me (Recommended)” selected. Choose Just Me.

5. **Destination Folder.** Keep the default folder and click **Next**.
   - Anaconda recommends a folder path with **no spaces or special characters**. The default is usually fine.
   - If your Windows user name contains spaces or unusual characters, choose a simple folder such as `C:\anaconda3`.

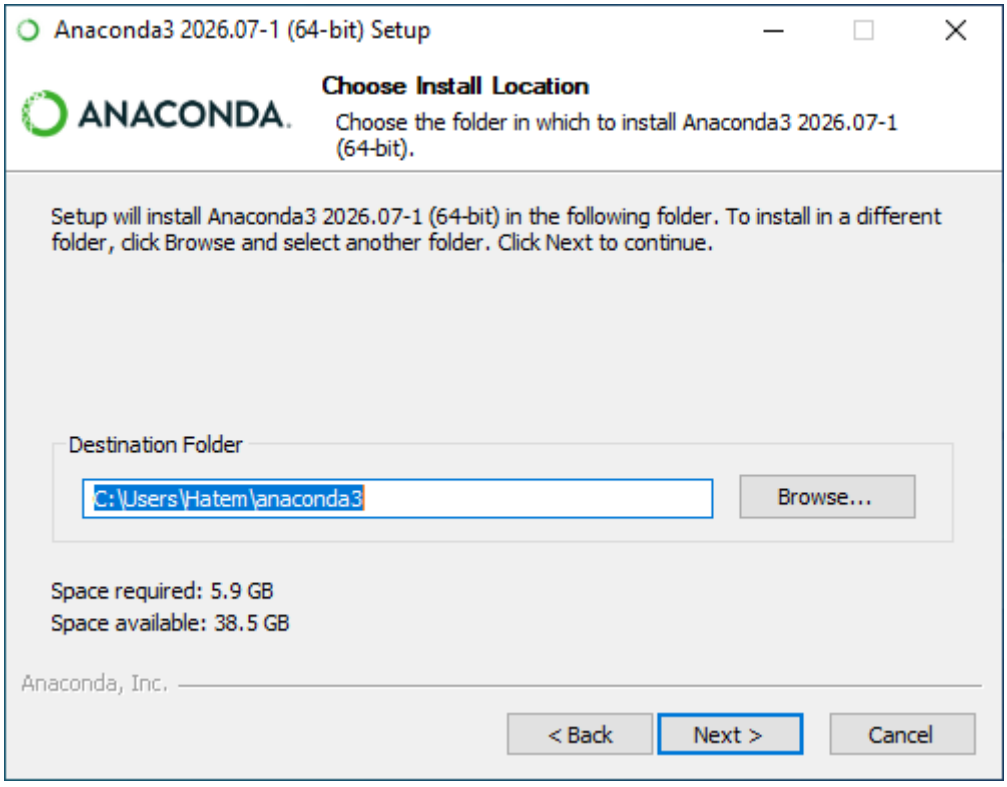

Figure 6: Destination folder screen showing the default path. The default folder is normally fine. Avoid paths with spaces or special characters.

6. **Advanced Installation Options.** The official Anaconda documentation explains the checkboxes like this:

Option	What it does	What to do
Create shortcuts	Adds Start Menu shortcuts for Anaconda Navigator, Spyder, Jupyter Notebook and Anaconda Prompt	**Leave checked** (default)
Add Anaconda3 to my PATH environment variable	Lets any program find Anaconda's tools	**Leave unchecked.** Anaconda does not recommend it: it can make other software use the wrong files. Use Anaconda Prompt instead.
Register Anaconda3 as my default Python (version number may differ)	Makes programs like VS Code and PyCharm use this Python	Leave at the default unless you are told otherwise
Clear the package cache upon completion	Frees some disk space after installing	Leave at the default

Rule of thumb

Do not change these settings unless you have a specific reason. In particular, do **not** tick "Add Anaconda3 to my PATH".

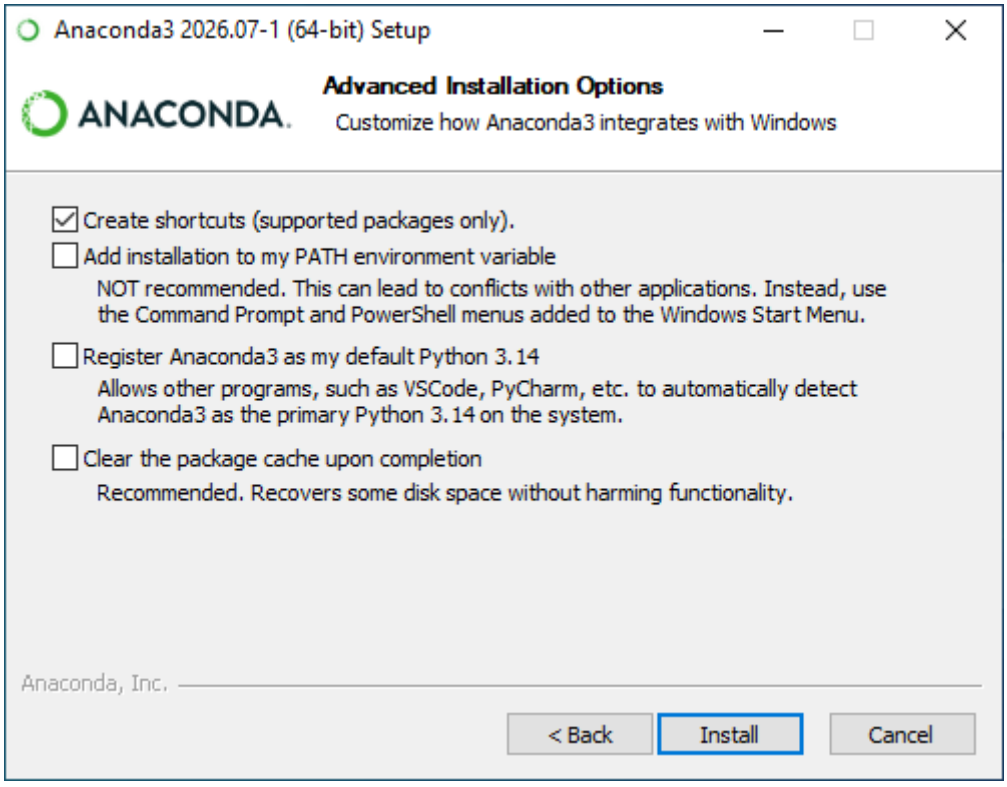

Figure 7: Advanced options screen with “Create shortcuts” checked and “Add to PATH” unchecked. Keep the defaults. Leave “Add Anaconda3 to my PATH” unchecked.

7. Click **Install**. This can take several minutes. You can click **Show details** to watch the progress, but you do not need to. Do not close the window.

8. When it finishes, click **Next** twice, then click **Finish**.

If the installation shows errors

Your antivirus software may be getting in the way. The official docs suggest turning it off temporarily during installation and turning it back on afterwards. Ask your instructor or IT department before doing this.

5 Launch Anaconda

Open Anaconda Navigator

Navigator usually opens by itself when the installation ends. To open it later:

1. Click the Windows **Search** bar (or press the **Windows key**).

2. Type **Anaconda Navigator**.

3. Click the app. The first start can take a minute.

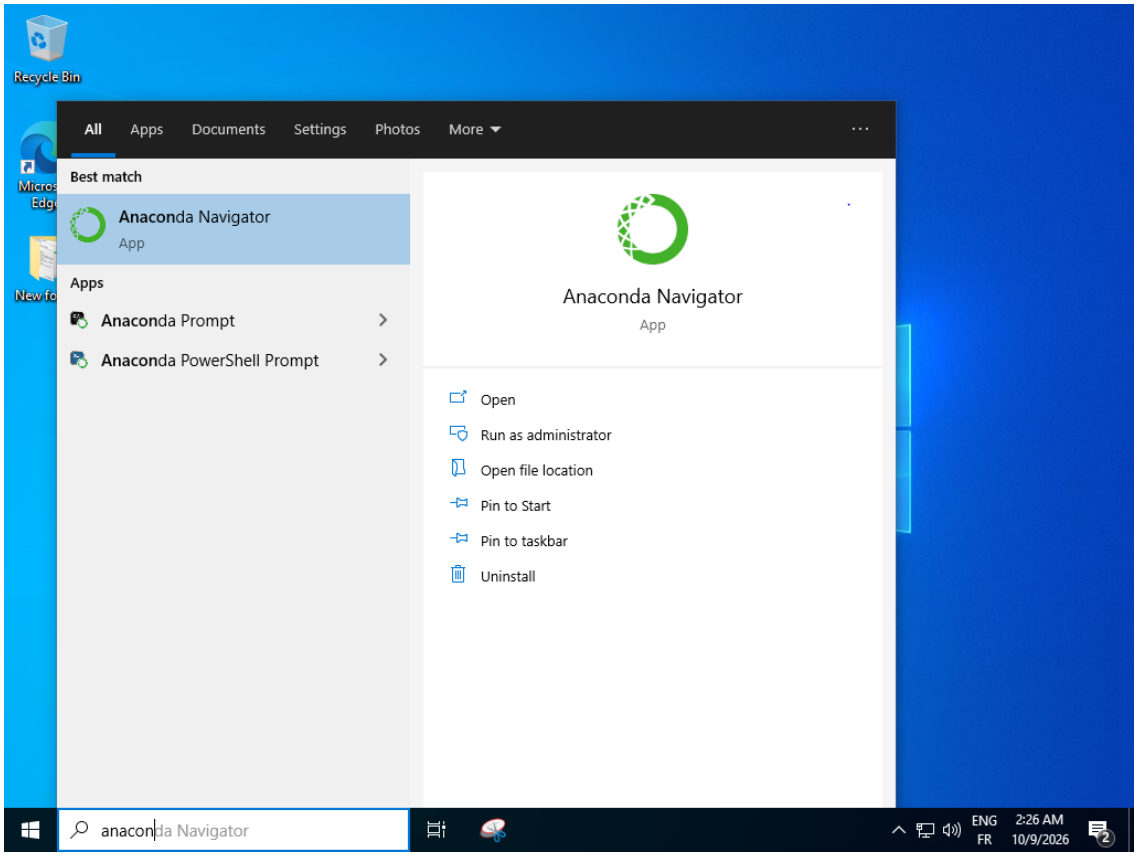

Figure 8: Windows search bar showing “Anaconda Navigator”.

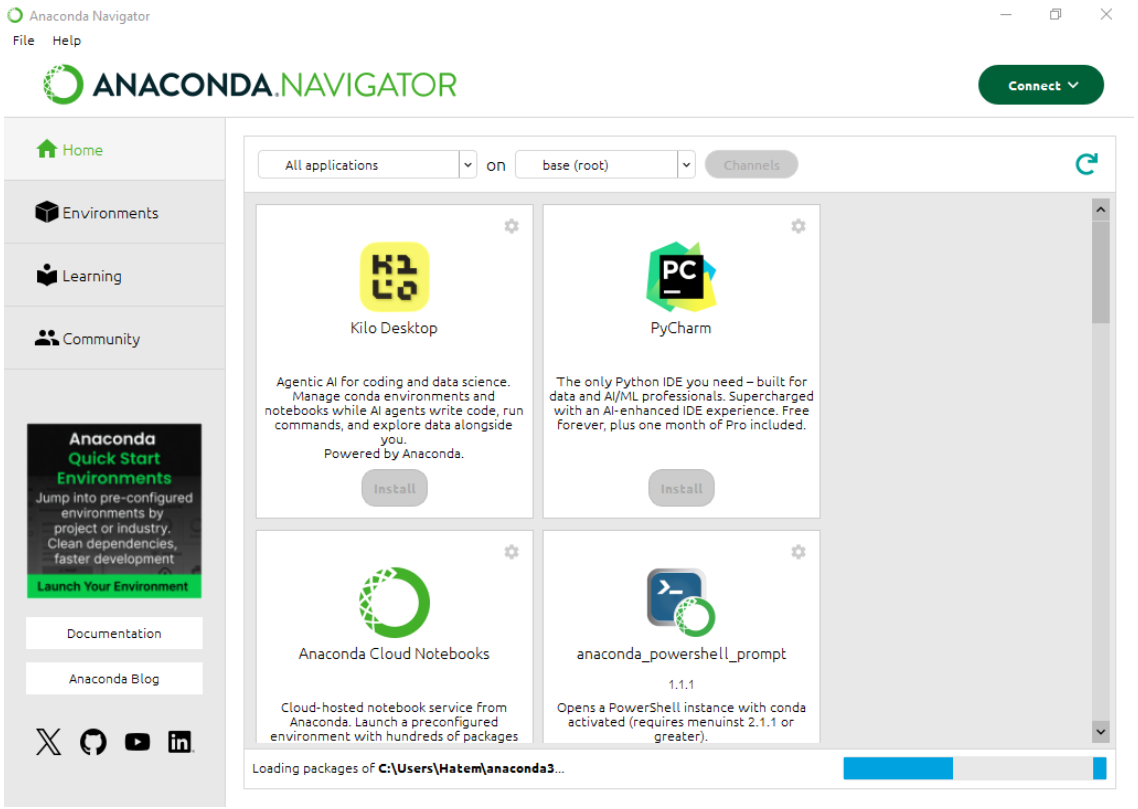

Figure 9: The Anaconda Navigator home window. This is Anaconda Navigator. From here you can launch tools such as Jupyter Notebook.

Open Anaconda Prompt

1. Click the Windows **Search** bar.
2. Type **Anaconda Prompt**.
3. Click the app. A dark window opens.

The window should show a line starting with **(base)**, like this:

```
(base) C:\Users\myusername>
```

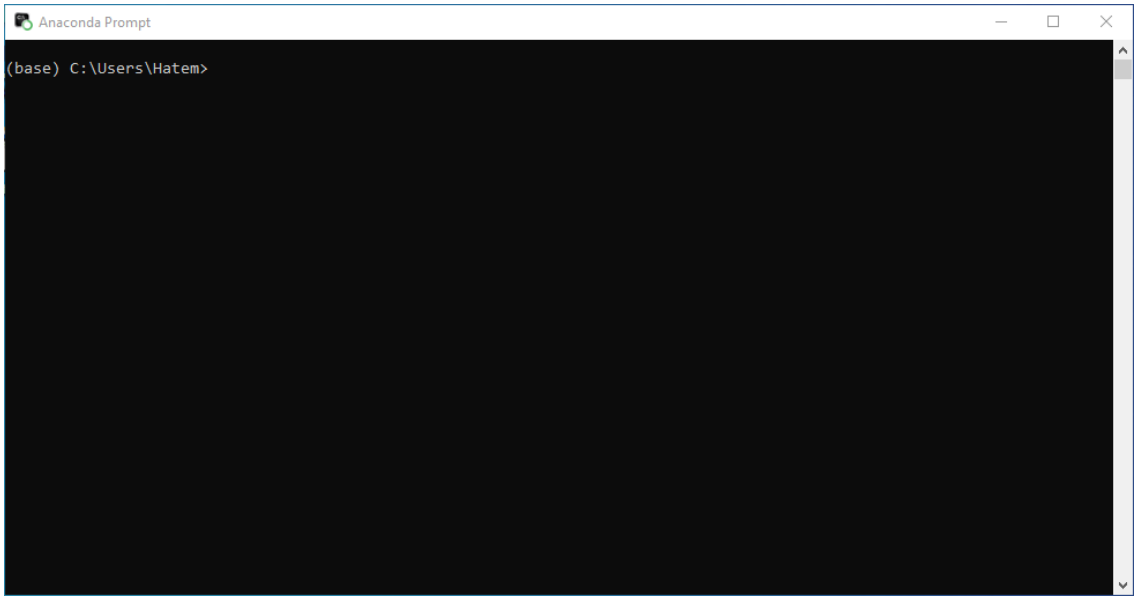

Figure 10: The anaconda prompt window. This is how it looks when you first open it.

`(base)` means Anaconda's main environment is active. That is normal and good.

Always use Anaconda Prompt

Use **Anaconda Prompt** (not the regular Command Prompt or PowerShell) for the steps below.

6 Verify the installation

In **Anaconda Prompt**, type each command and press **Enter**.

1. Check conda:

```
conda --version
```

Expected result: the word `conda` and a version number, for example `conda 25.x.x` (your number may differ).

2. Check Python:

```
python --version
```

Expected result: `Python 3.` followed by numbers, for example `Python 3.12.x` (your number may differ).

3. Start Python:

```
python
```

You will see a few lines of text and then `>>>`. This means you are inside Python. Type:

```
print("Hello, Python!")
```

Press **Enter**. Expected result:

```
Hello, Python!
```

4. Leave Python by typing:

```
exit()
```

You are back at the `(base) C:\Users \...>` line.

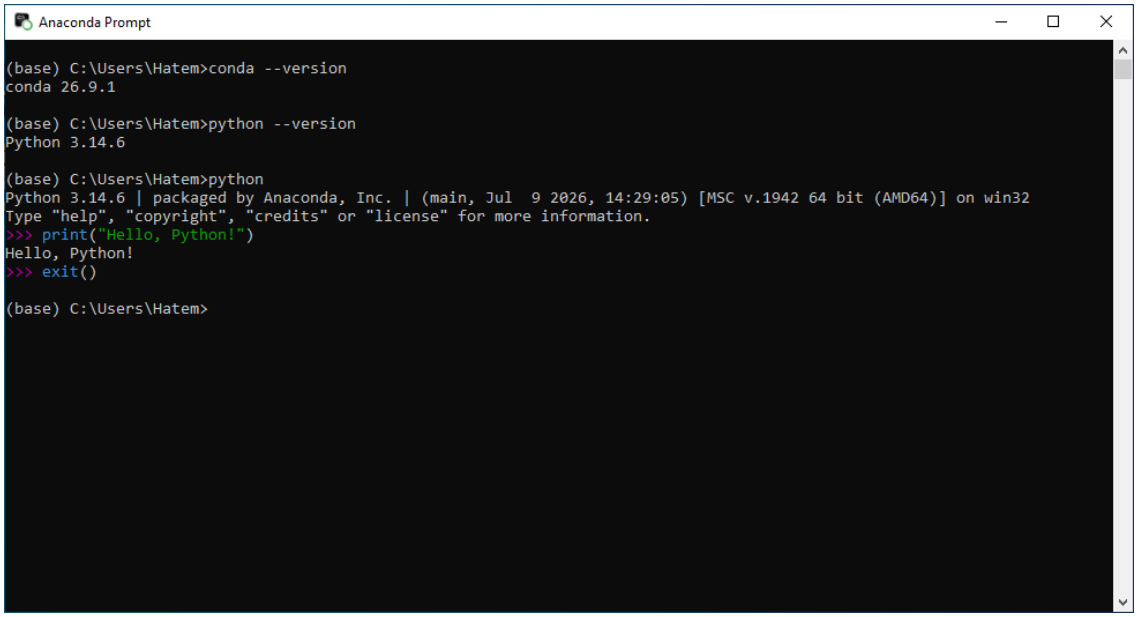

Figure 11: Anaconda Prompt showing conda --version, python --version, and the Hello, Python! output.

Bonus check (optional): open Anaconda Navigator and confirm it opens without an error.