

Installing Python and the Pylab interface is a little different on a Mac than a PC because there is no quick and easy installation package. Usually, this would mean that you have to download, build, and install each library, making the installation no easy task. Lucky for you, I was not satisfied with such a solution and have found a set of precompiled installation packages that should give you everything you need to run Python2.5, IDLE, and Pylab on your Mac.

So, without further ado, to install Python2.5 and Pylab download and run the following installation programs:

You may not know it, but your Mac actually comes pre-packaged with Python. However, unless you purchased your Mac in the last 5 months, it is not Python 2.5, but an older version. And, unfortunately, even if you are lucky enough to have a Python 2.5-ready machine, IDLE is not installed. You need to upgrade your system and download **Python 2.5** for the Mac OS. However, what installer and/or upgrade you need depends on what version of the Mac OS you have. Go to the following website and follow the installation instructions for your particular OS version: <http://www.python.org/download/mac/>

Once you have successfully installed Universal (or Mac) Python 2.5 and IDLE, you can download and install the following Python libraries.

- a. numpy (Numerical Python)
- b. wxPython (ver 2.8, not 2.6; Graphical Interface)
- c. PIL (Mac Graphical Libraries, including freetype)
- d. matplotlib (contains Pylab)

These files can all be download as packages (like the one for the Python2.5 installer) that can be run simply by double-clicking on the package icon. Because matplotlib requires information found in the others to work, I would install that one last. All of the files are available from: <http://www.pythonmac.org/packages/py25-fat/index.html>. I am not a Mac expert, but I believe this all you need to get everything up and running.