If you’re still stuck after using this document, feel free to reach out to the TAs for help with installing SBCL on your machine!

I found these community-wide instructions after having written up my personal tips. You can look through these instructions and my tips to see what looks the easiest for you. You can ignore the stuff about Quicklisp and SLIME for now, though you might want to install SLIME for a good Lisp editing environment.

Avoiding Installation

You can avoid the need for installation by using SBCL via the CSUG or CS networks (csug.rochester.edu and cs.rochester.edu networks). Of course, this will require some familiarity with SSH and an editor usable via command line (e.g. vim or emacs). If you’re unfamiliar with these tools, I would encourage you to learn them anyway, so this might be a good opportunity to do so!

Linux

For Debian or Ubuntu distributions, you can install a recent stable version of SBCL with the following command. It will identify the correct CPU architecture.

```
sudo apt-get install sbcl
```

After this completes, typing `sbcl` into command line will start up the REPL (see the Lisp guidelines if you don’t know what I mean by this).

For other distributions, you can check their respective package management tools for the availability of `sbcl`. I don’t know this for every distribution, but I’m happy to help you figure out the installation if you’re having trouble.

Windows

I would recommend setting up the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL). Here are pretty detailed instructions from Microsoft. WSL sets up a pretty good emulation of an Ubuntu terminal environment. So once you have WSL set up you can follow the Ubuntu installation instructions above to get SBCL working.

Although the SBCL install will work with either version, I would recommend installing WSL 2 if your machine fulfills the requirements. It emulates Linux much more effectively so you’re less likely to run into incompatibility issues when treating it like any other Linux system.

OS X

This webpage gives clearer instructions than I could possibly manage.