

Tutorial: The ipython notebook

Unlike IDL, python has many interfaces that are commonly used. One that we'll work with today is the **ipython notebook**. This interface allows you to *program in your browser* as if it were a terminal. Within **ipython**, you can do most things you would normally do on the terminal command line (\$).

Why use this strange 'notebook' format? It records exactly what work you do and the results of your work *including graphics* into a single document! It makes 'science blogging' - where you track your work as you do it - very easy.

Download the tutorial

In order to complete today's tutorial, you'll need to update your `ASTR2600_materials` directory:

```
cd ASTR2600_materials
git pull
cd tutorials
ls
```

You should see at least this file (`tutorial8_ipynbplotting.pdf`) and an ipython notebook (`Tutorial8.ipynb`).

Copy the `Tutorial8.ipynb` into your turn-in tutorials directory, then `cd` into that directory.

Now start up the ipython notebook with this command:

```
ipython notebook --pylab inline &
```

This tells ipython to:

1. open a notebook
2. with python enabled
3. and to put the figures in-line within the notebook

Then, follow the instructions in the notebook.

For turning in today's work, you'll need to `git add Tutorial8.ipynb` and `commit` and `push`.