Installation Instructions: Python & Visual Studio Code

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Overview

This document walks you through preparing your laptop for the first lecture. During the masterclass, we will use programming language Python, together with the independent development environment (IDE) Visual Studio Code (VS Code). VS Code is an application that allows you to write and manage programming code in all kinds of languages in a user-friendly way.

Both Python and VS Code are available for free from their respective websites. You are expected to bring a laptop to class with a working installation of both Python and VS Code. Below you will find instructions on installing Python and VS Code. Please make sure you go through these steps before attending the first class.

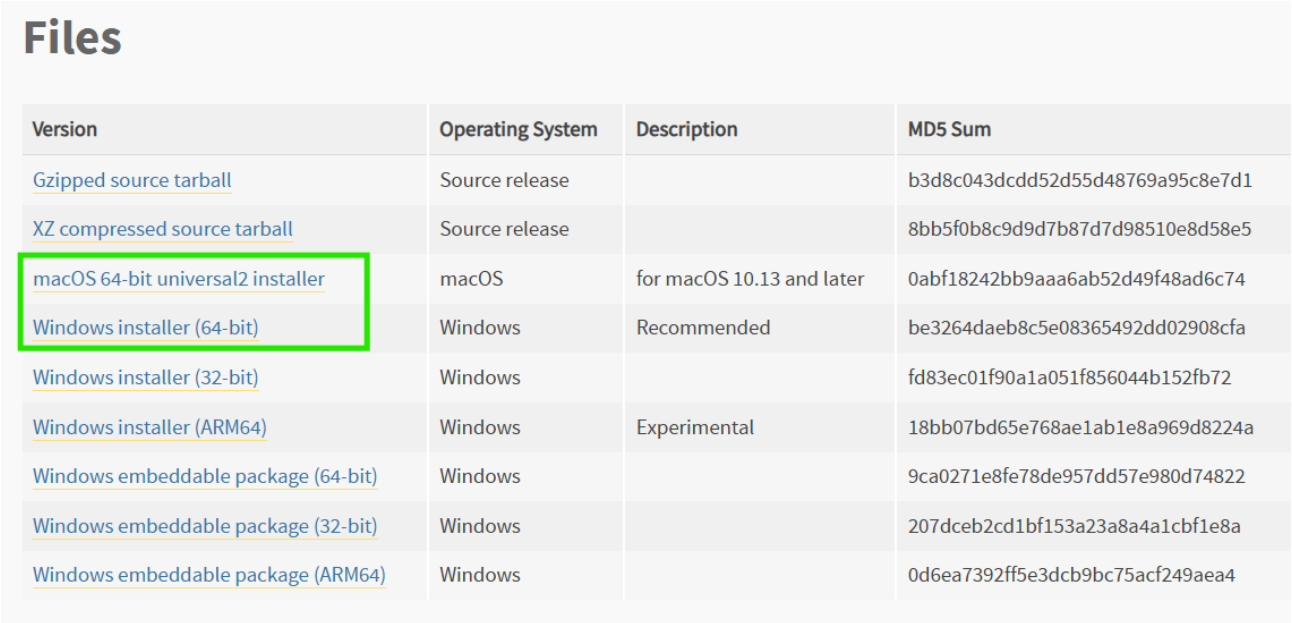
Installing Python

During the masterclass, we will use Python version 3.13.3, the latest stable release at the time of writing.

What if you already have another Python version installed? Please also install version 3.13.3. Older versions of Python can behave differently in some cases. You do not have to uninstall the older version, they can live side by side.

To install Python 3.13.3 on **Windows** or **macOS**:

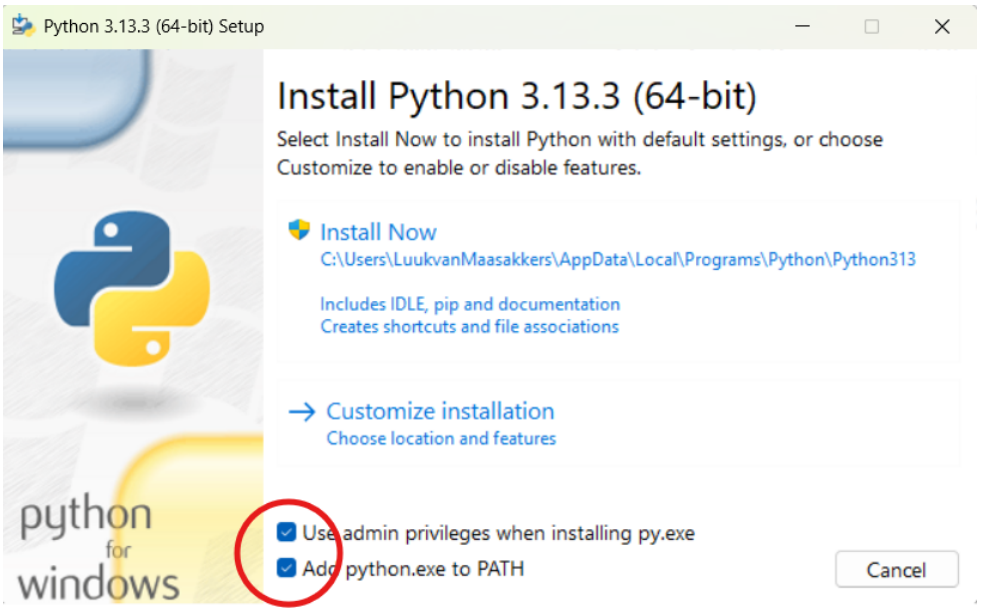
1. Go to https://www.python.org/downloads/release/python-3133/ and scroll down to 'Files'. Click on the installer that matches your operating system (macOS or Windows 64-bit) to download the installation program.



Files

Version	Operating System	Description	MD5 Sum
Gzipped source tarball	Source release		b3d8c043dcdd52d55d48769a95c8e7d1
XZ compressed source tarball	Source release		8bb5f0b8c9d9d7b87d7d98510e8d58e5
macOS 64-bit universal2 installer	macOS	for macOS 10.13 and later	0abf18242bb9aaa6ab52d49f48ad6c74
Windows installer (64-bit)	Windows	Recommended	be3264daeb8c5e08365492dd02908cfa
Windows installer (32-bit)	Windows		fd83ec01f90a1a051f856044b152fb72
Windows installer (ARM64)	Windows	Experimental	18bb07bd65e768ae1ab1e8a969d8224a
Windows embeddable package (64-bit)	Windows		9ca0271e8fe78de957dd57e980d74822
Windows embeddable package (32-bit)	Windows		207dceb2cd1bf153a23a8a4a1cbf1e8a
Windows embeddable package (ARM64)	Windows		0d6ea7392ff5e3dcb9bc75acf249aea4

2. Click on the downloaded file to start the installer. **Checkmark 'Add python.exe to PATH'**. The image below shows the Windows installer, this may look different on other operating systems such as MacOS. Click 'Install Now' and wait until the installation has finished. You can close the installer, Python is now installed.



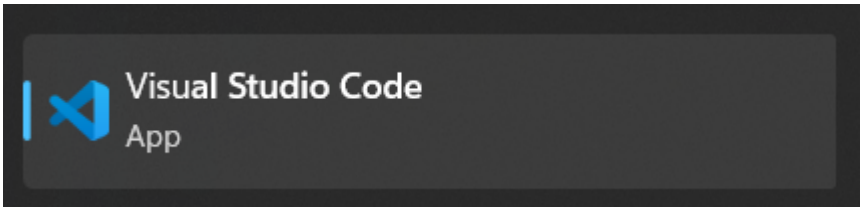
To install Python 3.13.3 on **Linux** (ignore if you have Windows or macOS):

1. Open the Terminal (Ctrl + Alt + T).
2. Run the following two bash commands:

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install python3.13
```

Installing VS Code

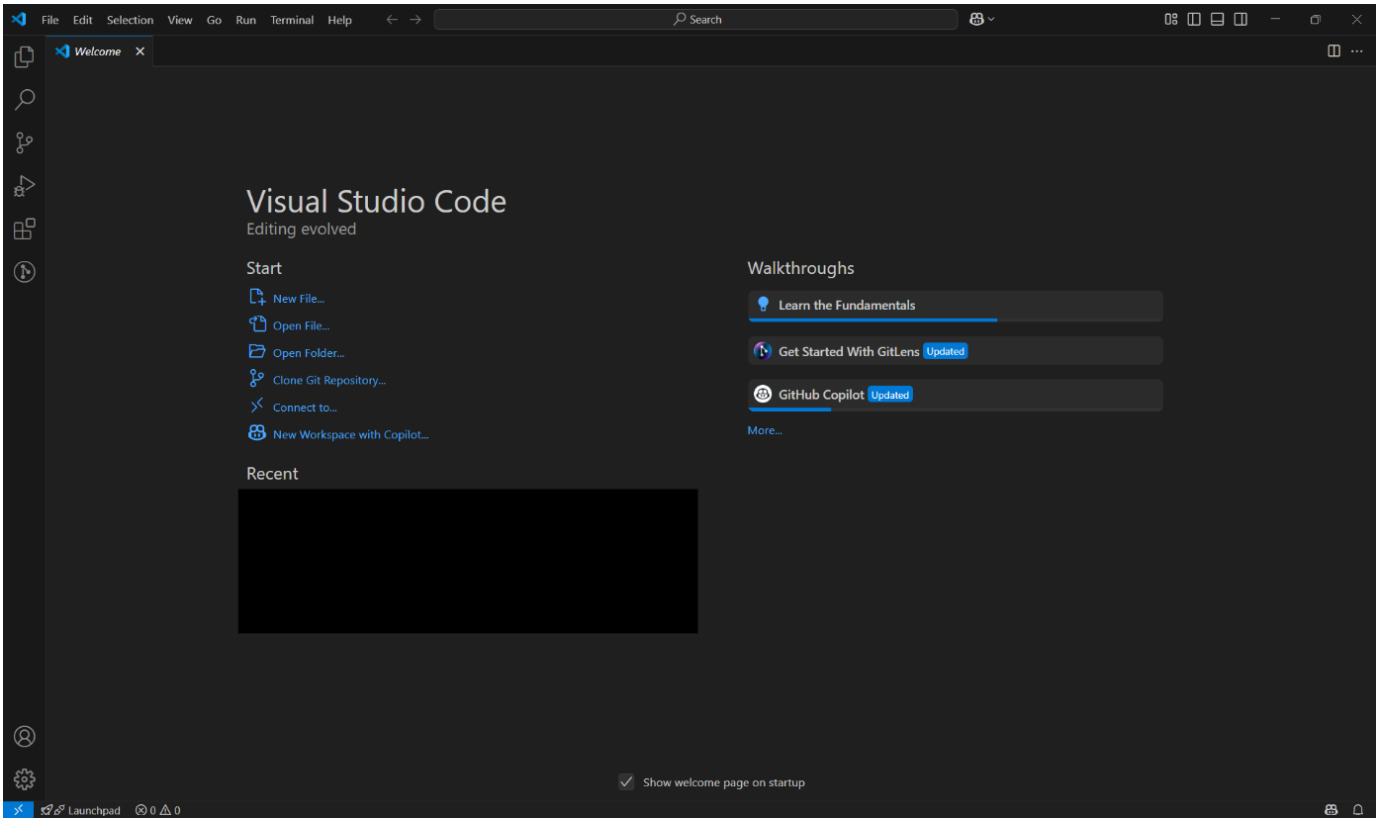
1. Go to https://code.visualstudio.com/download. Click on the download button corresponding to your operating system.
2. Click on the downloaded installer to install VS Code. Use the default settings in all steps and complete the installation. VS Code should now be visible when you search for it:



Check if everything works

Finally, let's see if everything works as expected.

1. Open Visual Studio Code. A window like this should appear. Depending on your operating system, installed plugins and prior use, your view can be slightly different.

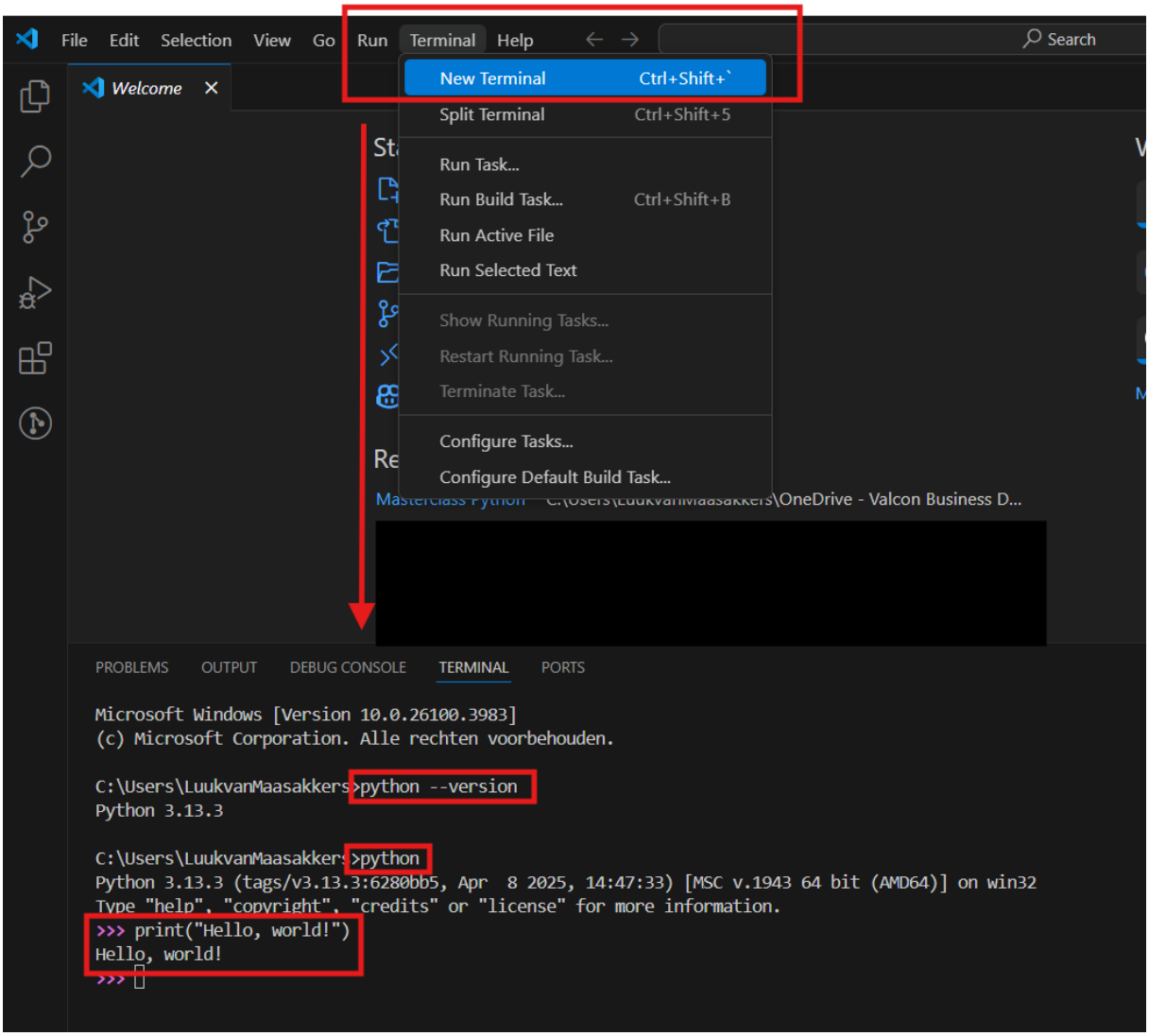


2. In the top bar, click Terminal > New terminal. Depending on your operating system, a terminal appears in the bottom panel. On Windows, it looks like this (see next page).

3. Type `python --version` in your terminal and press Enter. `Python 3.13.3` should now appear.

4. Type `python` in your terminal and press Enter. Python now opens in the terminal, you can start writing some code.

5. Type `print("Hello, world!")` in your terminal and press Enter. The message should appear in the line below. Congratulations, you have run your first Python command and the setup was successful!


File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help
Search
Welcome
New Terminal Ctrl+Shift+`
Split Terminal Ctrl+Shift+5
Run Task...
Run Build Task... Ctrl+Shift+B
Run Active File
Run Selected Text
Show Running Tasks...
Restart Running Task...
Terminate Task...
Configure Tasks...
Configure Default Build Task...
PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26100.3983]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. Alle rechten voorbehouden.
C:\Users\LuukvanMaasakkers>python --version
Python 3.13.3
C:\Users\LuukvanMaasakkers>python
Python 3.13.3 (tags/v3.13.3:6280bb5, Apr 8 2025, 14:47:33) [MSC v.1943 64 bit (AMD64)] on win32
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print("Hello, world!")
Hello, world!
>>>