

Python Tutorials

Table of Contents

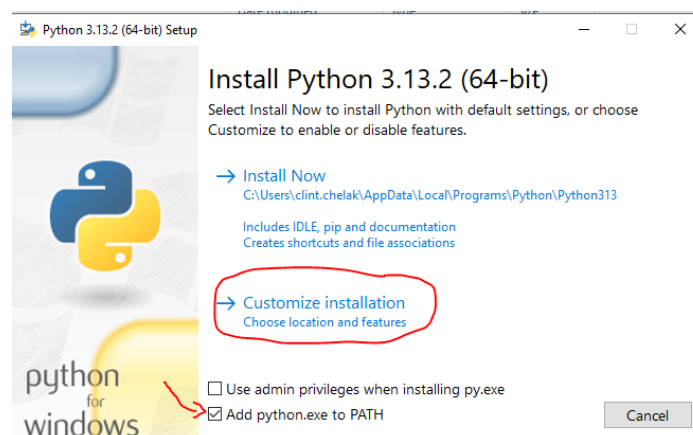
Intro.....	1
How to Install Python.....	1
Opening a Jupyter Notebook.....	4
Exporting a Jupyter Notebook to HTML.....	6
Installing tools to Export Jupyter Notebooks to PDF.....	7
Pandoc.....	8
Miktex.....	9
Exporting a Jupyter Notebook to PDF.....	15
Through Jupyter Notebook IDE.....	16
Through the Windows Command Prompt.....	17
Through Visual Studio Code.....	17

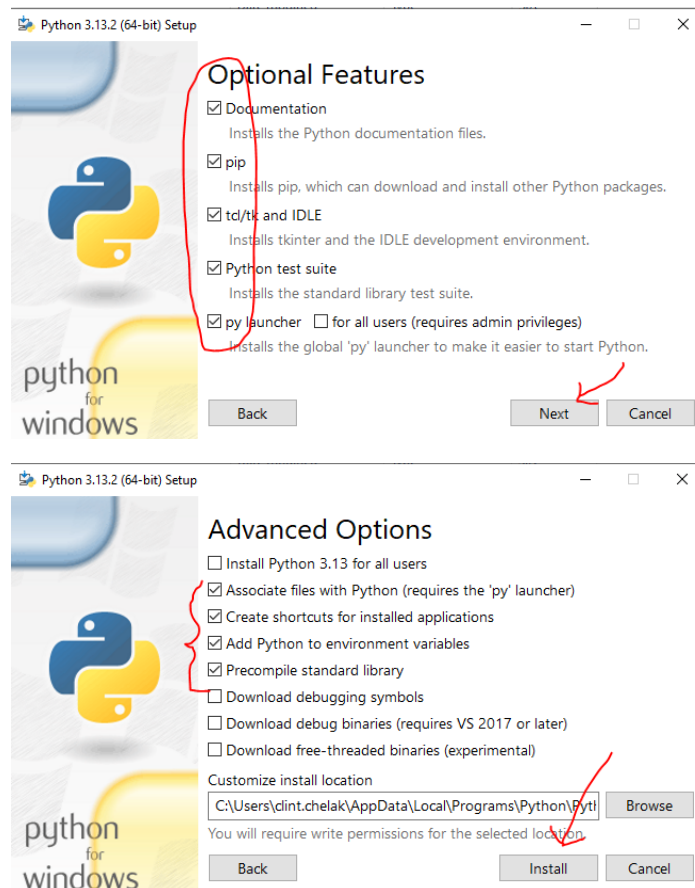
Intro

The following guides will be added to the lab notes in the future to ensure students can get up to speed on python. However, as is the nature with installation processes on a Windows machine, this tutorial could fall out of date rather quickly.

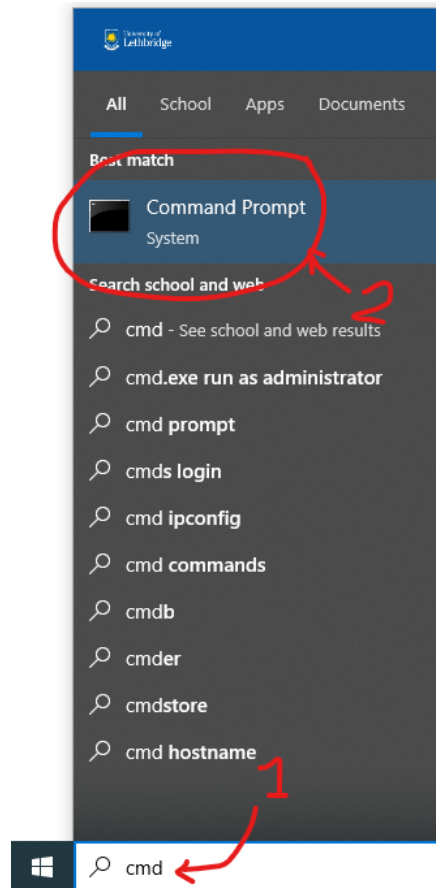
How to Install Python

1. Install python onto the system, if it is not already. Download from the official website:
<https://www.python.org/downloads/>
2. Follow the python install instructions (example below). I'd recommend using the custom installation and reading applying options that sound interesting and useful to you. The following is my recommended install for the class:





3. Ensure that python correctly installed by opening up the command prompt on your computer.



4. If during install, you checked the box to install “py launcher” type “py” into your console. Otherwise, type “python.exe”. If you see three brackets (“>>>”), you’ve arrived to the world of python!

```
Command Prompt - python.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19045.5487]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\clint.chelak>py
Python 3.13.2 (tags/v3.13.2:4f8bb39, Feb  4 2025, 15:23:48) [MSC v.1942 64 bit (AMD64)] on win32
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>>

C:\Users\clint.chelak>python.exe
Python 3.13.2 (tags/v3.13.2:4f8bb39, Feb  4 2025, 15:23:48) [MSC v.1942 64 bit (AMD64)] on win32
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>>
```

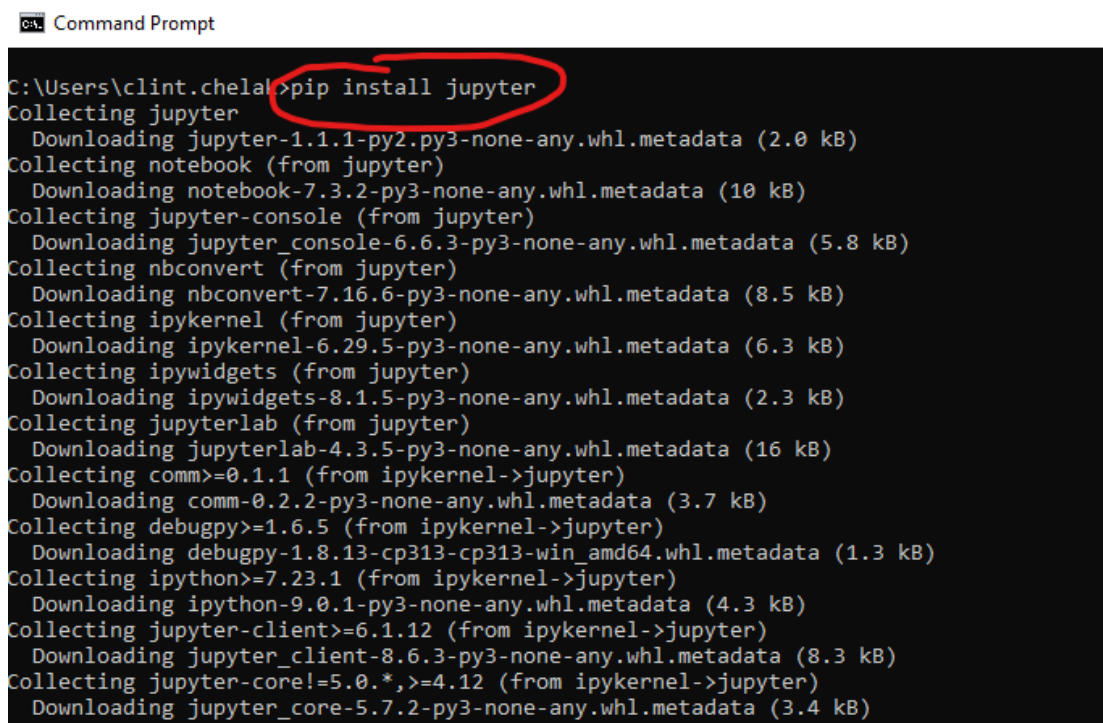
5. To exit the python console, type “`quit()`” or press “`Ctrl+d`”. In this case, it will return you to normal command prompt functionality.

Opening a Jupyter Notebook

To work with jupyter notebooks, you need to [install the jupyter package](#). Afterwards, you can use Jupyter notebooks from any IDE that supports them, such as Visual Studio Code. Or, as shown here, you can even open them in the same command prompt!

As with all python packages, we will install jupyter with pip.

1. Open up the command prompt.
2. Type following command:
`pip install jupyter`



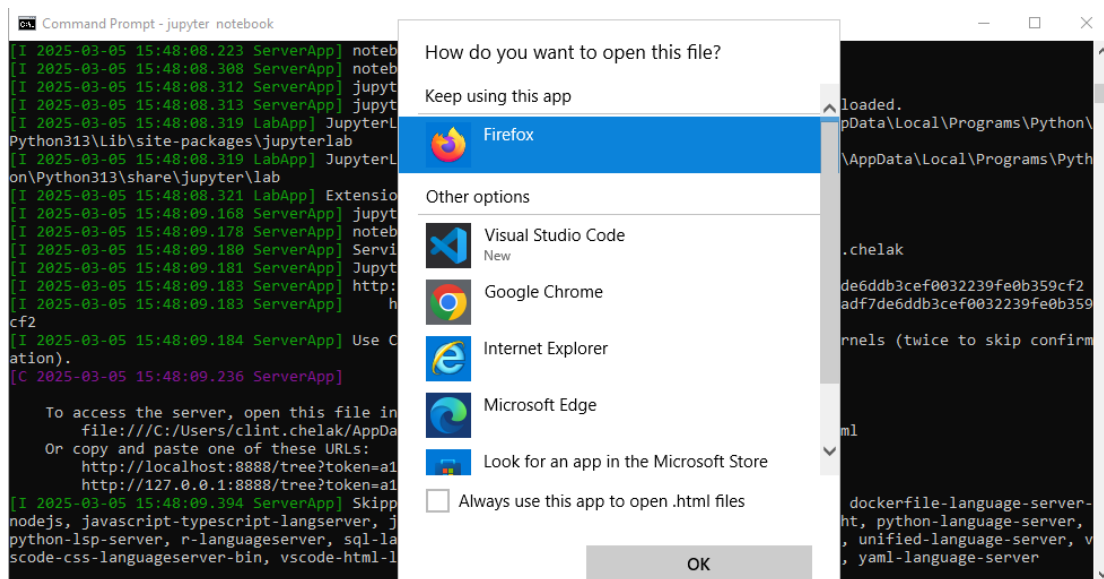
```
C:\ Command Prompt
C:\Users\clint.chelala>pip install jupyter
Collecting jupyter
  Downloading jupyter-1.1.1-py2.py3-none-any.whl.metadata (2.0 kB)
Collecting notebook (from jupyter)
  Downloading notebook-7.3.2-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (10 kB)
Collecting jupyter-console (from jupyter)
  Downloading jupyter_console-6.6.3-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (5.8 kB)
Collecting nbconvert (from jupyter)
  Downloading nbconvert-7.16.6-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (8.5 kB)
Collecting ipykernel (from jupyter)
  Downloading ipykernel-6.29.5-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (6.3 kB)
Collecting ipywidgets (from jupyter)
  Downloading ipywidgets-8.1.5-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (2.3 kB)
Collecting jupyterlab (from jupyter)
  Downloading jupyterlab-4.3.5-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (16 kB)
Collecting comm>=0.1.1 (from ipykernel->jupyter)
  Downloading comm-0.2.2-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (3.7 kB)
Collecting debugpy>=1.6.5 (from ipykernel->jupyter)
  Downloading debugpy-1.8.13-cp313-cp313-win_amd64.whl.metadata (1.3 kB)
Collecting ipython>=7.23.1 (from ipykernel->jupyter)
  Downloading ipython-9.0.1-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (4.3 kB)
Collecting jupyter-client>=6.1.12 (from ipykernel->jupyter)
  Downloading jupyter_client-8.6.3-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (8.3 kB)
Collecting jupyter-core!=5.0.*,>=4.12 (from ipykernel->jupyter)
  Downloading jupyter_core-5.7.2-py3-none-any.whl.metadata (3.4 kB)
```

3. Wait for the command line prompt to reappear. Installing jupyter can take a while.
4. To confirm jupyter installed correctly, type the following into the command prompt:
`jupyter notebook`

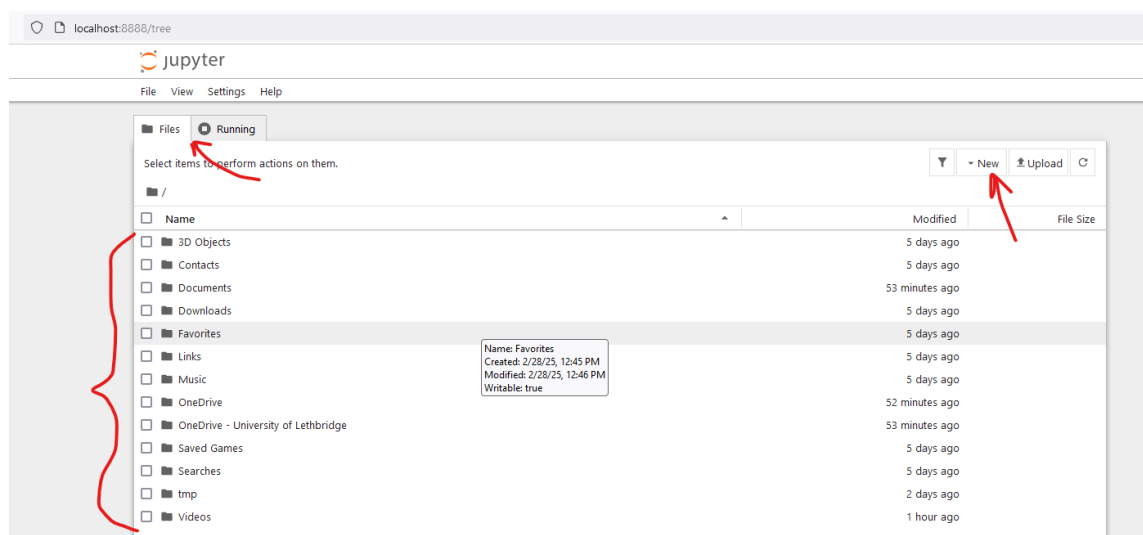
```
Command Prompt - jupyter notebook

C:\Users\clint.chelak>jupyter notebook
[I 2025-03-05 16:01:49.241 ServerApp] jupyter_lsp | extension was successfully linked.
[I 2025-03-05 16:01:49.248 ServerApp] jupyter_server_terminals | extension was successfully linked.
[I 2025-03-05 16:01:49.260 ServerApp] jupyterlab | extension was successfully linked.
[I 2025-03-05 16:01:49.269 ServerApp] notebook | extension was successfully linked.
[I 2025-03-05 16:01:50.138 ServerApp] notebook_shim | extension was successfully linked.
[I 2025-03-05 16:01:50.231 ServerApp] notebook_shim | extension was successfully loaded.
[I 2025-03-05 16:01:50.240 ServerApp] jupyter_lsp | extension was successfully loaded.
[I 2025-03-05 16:01:50.242 ServerApp] jupyter_server_terminals | extension was successfully loaded.
```

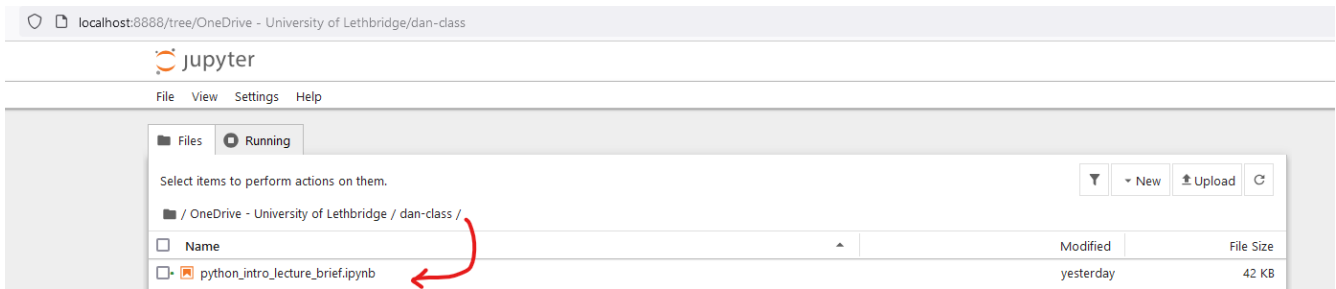
5. You may be asked which browser you want to open it with. Select the internet browser of your choice.



6. A menu appears showing your home directory and its files. If you have an existing notebook you want to open, navigate to where you saved the file. Otherwise, navigate to the folder of your choice and click “New” to create a new notebook.



7. Once you've navigated to the correct spot, click on the notebook (a file ending in ".ipynb"). You can now begin interacting with the notebook.

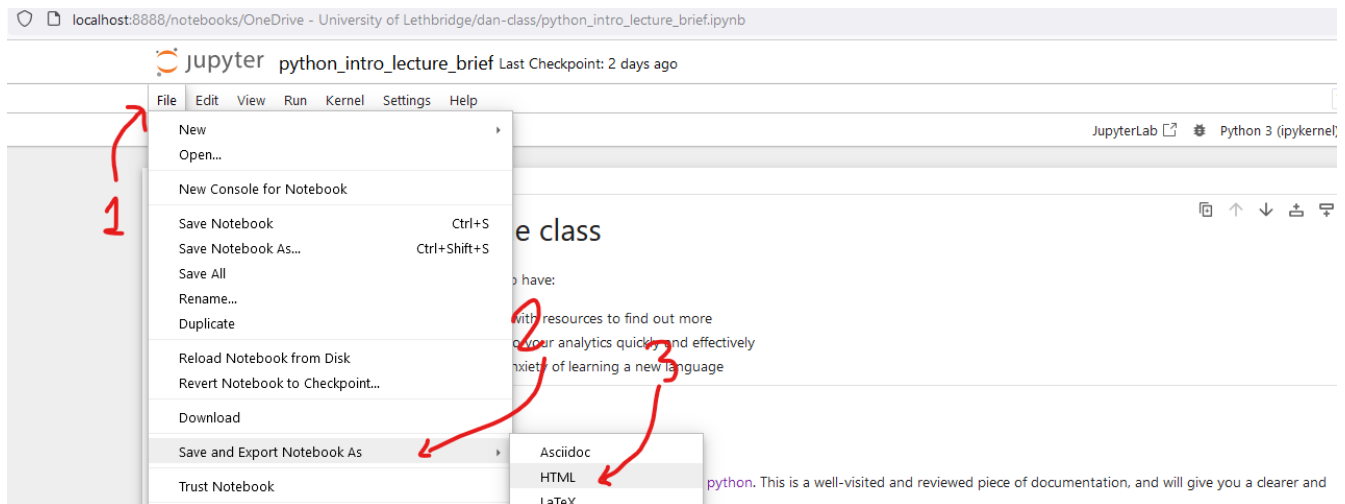


8. When finished editing your notebook, go up to File > Save, or press Ctrl + S.
9. You can close the browser, but you may notice the command prompt will still be running a Jupyter server. To close it,
 1. press Ctrl + C (or Esc), then type Y, then Enter
 2. or, press Ctrl + C twice, or press Esc twice
10. You can then close the command prompt.

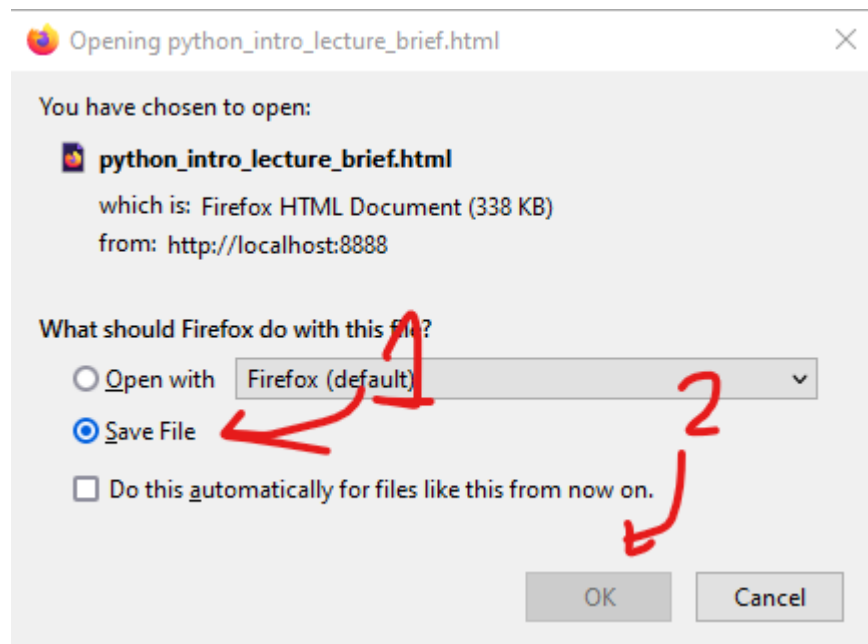
Exporting a Jupyter Notebook to HTML

Exporting your notebook to HTML is probably the easiest way to get it published. Without libraries, things like equations (found in the lab) will not render and will look like cryptic code, but at least the [markdown](#) text and code will look fine.

1. Open your jupyter notebook (see steps [above](#))
2. Click File > Save and Export Notebook As > HTML



3. Depending on browser, it may download immediately, or give you a prompt like below.



4. Open the HTML file. It should appear in a browser.

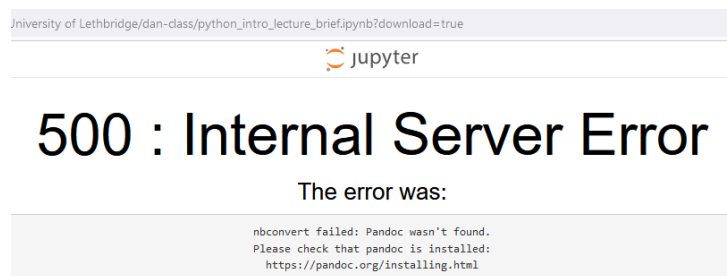
1. Note: most internet browsers allow exporting an HTML file to PDF. Usually if you go to your browsers “Print” settings, you can convert it to the file type of your choice

Installing tools to Export Jupyter Notebooks to PDF

Depending on what is inside your notebook, you may need to install other tools before things will export to PDF properly. For example, on a Windows machine, the following will most likely need to be downloaded and installed:

- [pandoc](#) – a free, opensource document converter. Jupyter calls this to make PDFs.
- [xelatex](#) – a free python LaTeX library and exporter. Jupyter calls this to convert its [markdown](#) text format to PDF format.
 - LaTeX is a free (and arguably more powerful) alternative to Microsoft Word, designed for making professional documents. It does have a steep learning curve if you’re using it for something other than Jupyter, as it has its own coding and formatting syntax.

Jupyter will give an error message like the following whenever it needs a tool to continue.



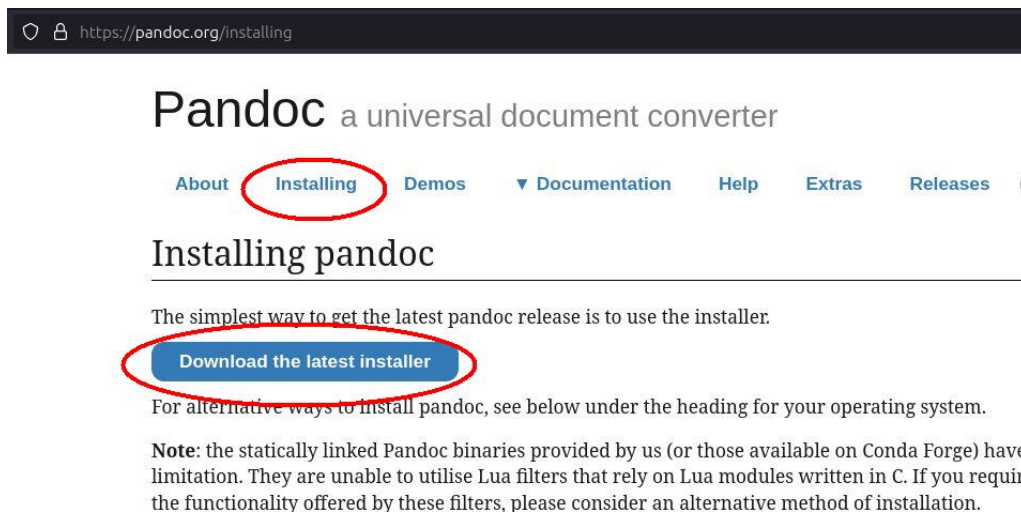
```
raise OSError(msg)
OSError: xelatex not found on PATH, if you have not installed xelatex you may need to do so. Find further instructions at
https://nbconvert.readthedocs.io/en/latest/install.html#installing-tex.
C:\Users\clint.chelak\OneDrive - University of Lethbridge\dan-class>
```

Fortunately, the prompts give you a webpage to direct you to solution. I'd recommend following that. However, additionally, I have a guide below with images.

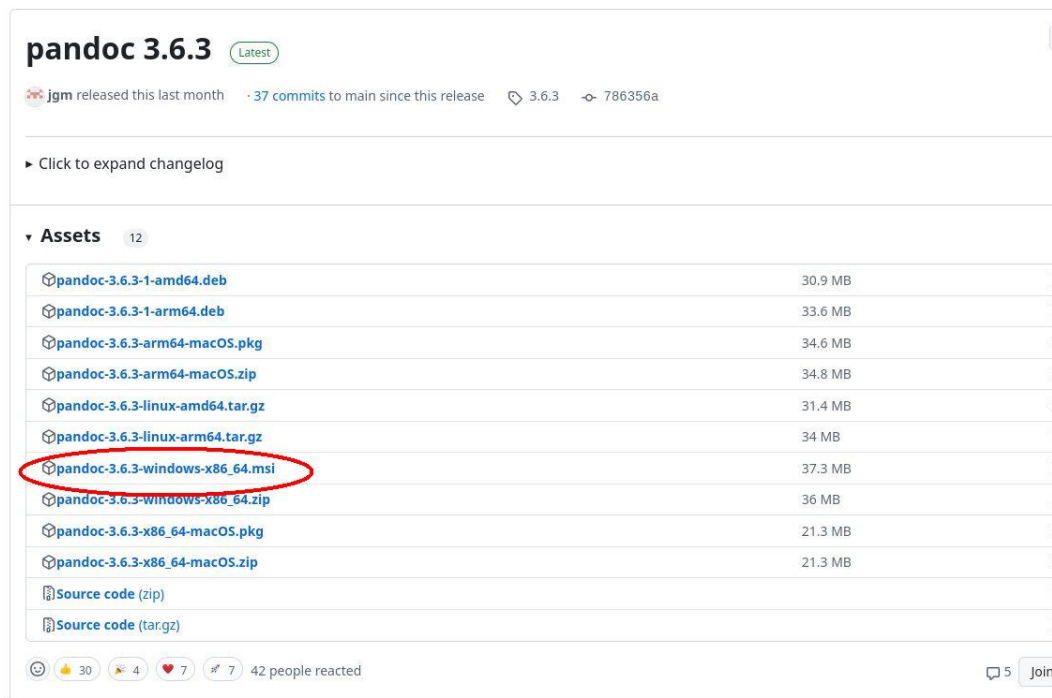
After installing any package, you will most likely need to restart your jupyter session and command prompt.

Pandoc

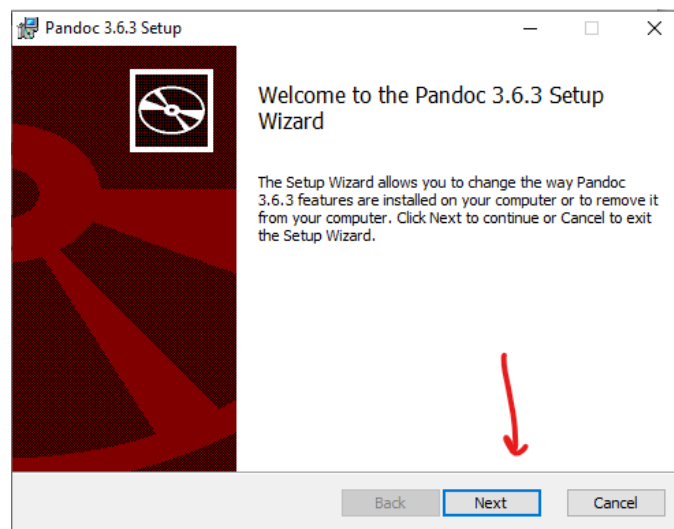
1. Navigate to the [pandoc](https://pandoc.org) website
2. Click on their "Installing" tab
3. Scroll to the windows section, click the link to the download page. It will probably bring you to a github page like [the one linked here](#).



4. For Windows, download the file ending in "-x86_64.msi". The windows installer will be downloaded.



5. Follow the steps of the installer, similar to what is seen below



Miktex

Miktex is one of the [LaTeX](#) tools with Windows support. I wasn't a fan of this one or the other one I tried for Windows, but I guess this is what we've got.

1. Go to [miktex home page](#). Click the "Download" tab

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About MiKTeX

MiKTeX (pronounced *mick-tech*) is an up-to-date implementation of TeX/LaTeX and related programs.

TeX is a typesetting system written by Donald Ervin Knuth who says that it is *intended for the creation of beautiful books - and especially for books that contain a lot of mathematics.*

Easy to install

It is very easy to install MiKTeX on Windows. The MiKTeX



More information:

[Prerequisites](#)

[MiKTeX FAQ](#)

[HOWTO: install MiKTeX \(Windows\)](#)


[HOWTO: install MiKTeX \(Mac\)](#)

[HOWTO: install MiKTeX \(Linux\)](#)

[HOWTO: deploy MiKTeX](#)

2. Click the “Windows” tab, then click “Download”. Open the installer from your Download folder.

https://miktex.org/download

 [DOWNLOAD](#) [DOCS](#) [PACKAGES](#) [HELP](#) [GIVEBACK](#)

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Getting MiKTeX

MiKTeX is available for selected operating systems.

Please check the [prerequisites](#) in order to find out whether your system is supported.

If your system is not (yet) supported: it is not too difficult to [build MiKTeX](#).

Download Manuals (PDF)

View, Download & Print User Manuals for Free!

[Windows](#) [Mac](#) [Linux](#) [Docker](#) [All downloads](#)

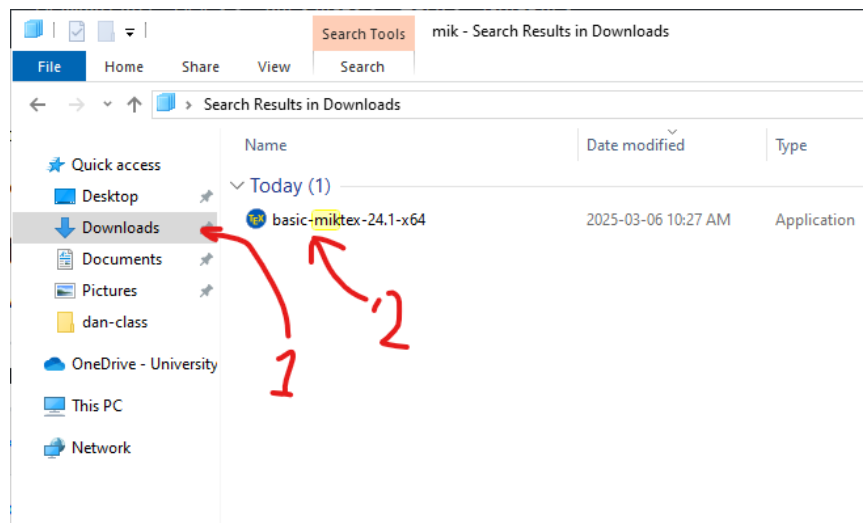
[Installer](#) [Portable Edition](#) [Command-line installer](#)

To install a basic TeX/LaTeX system on Windows, download and run this installer.

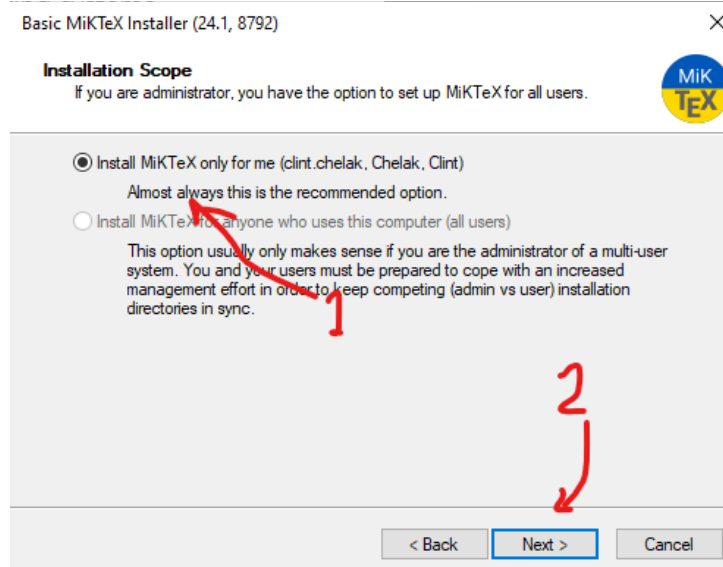
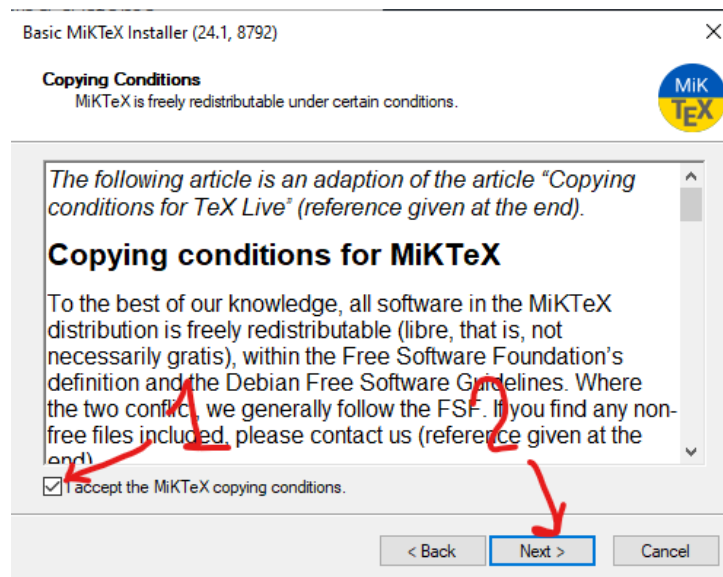
Please read the [tutorial](#), if you want step-by-step guidance.

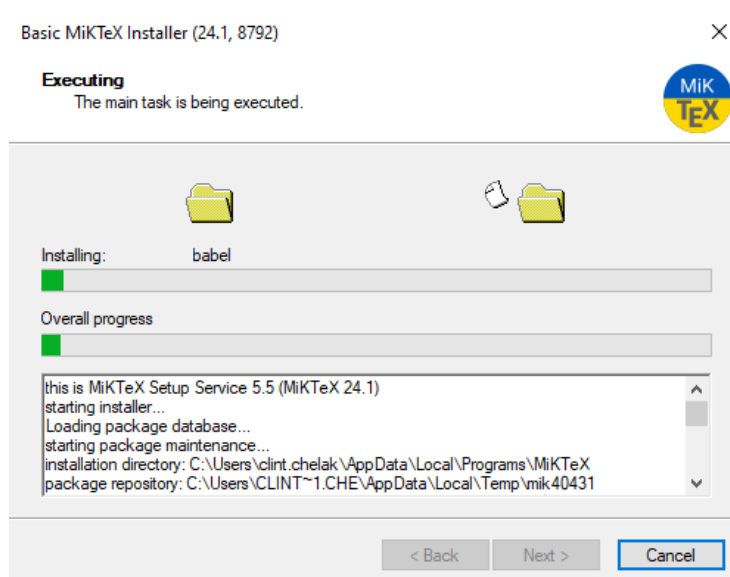
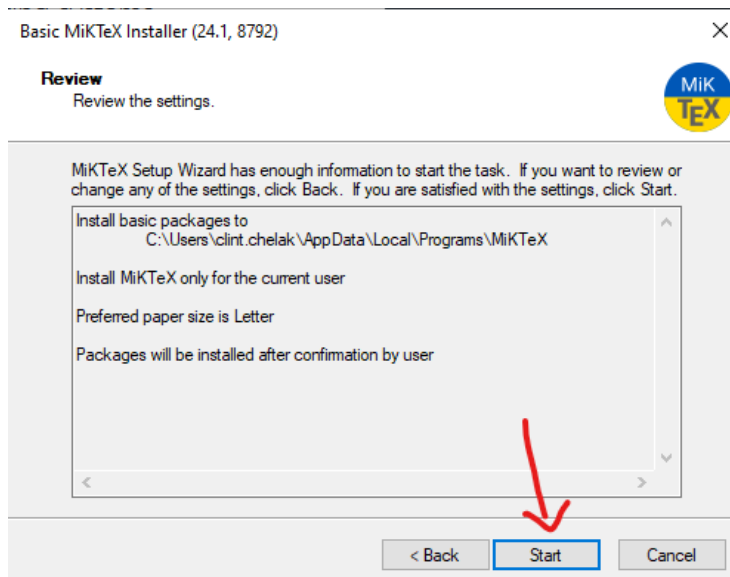
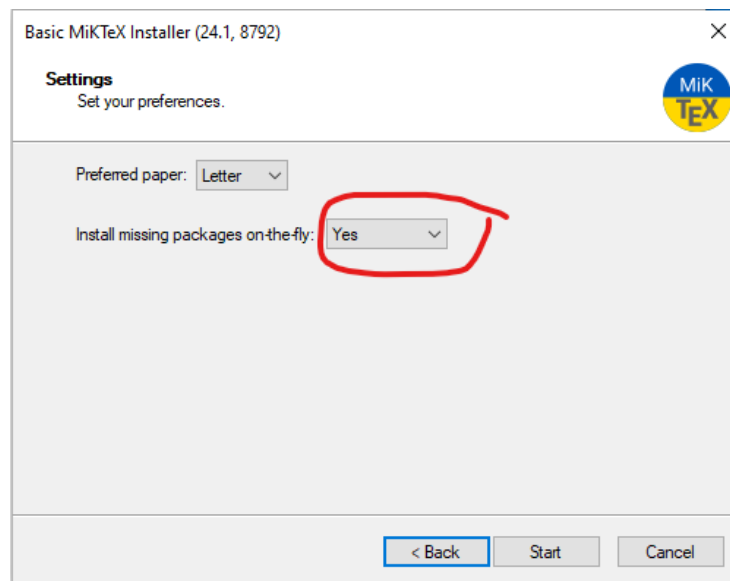
Date:	01/28/2024
File name:	basic-miktex-24.1-x64.exe
Size:	138.07 MB
SHA-256:	94ddd75e2b903b9175db6dbda7d8103fcebda4495b579695e925e885d2b92704

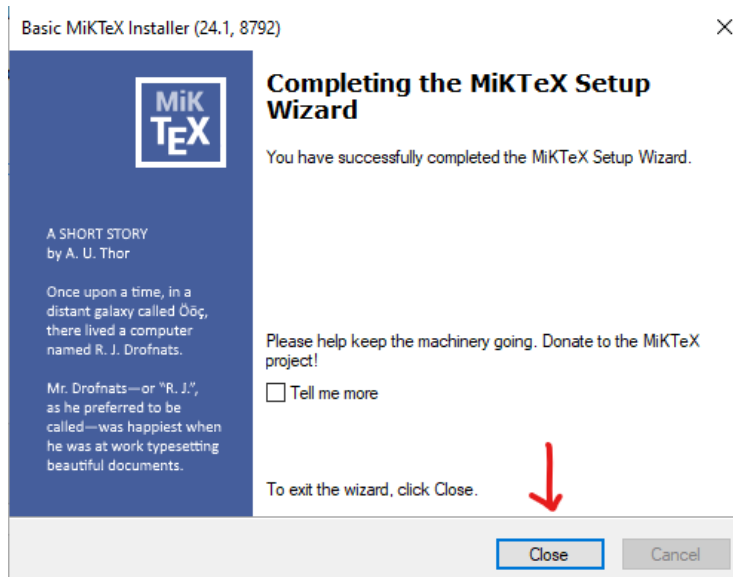
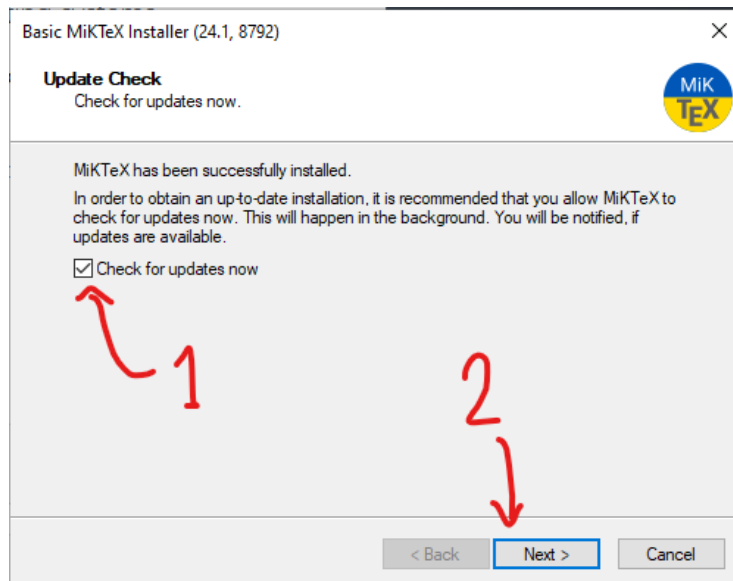
[Download](#)



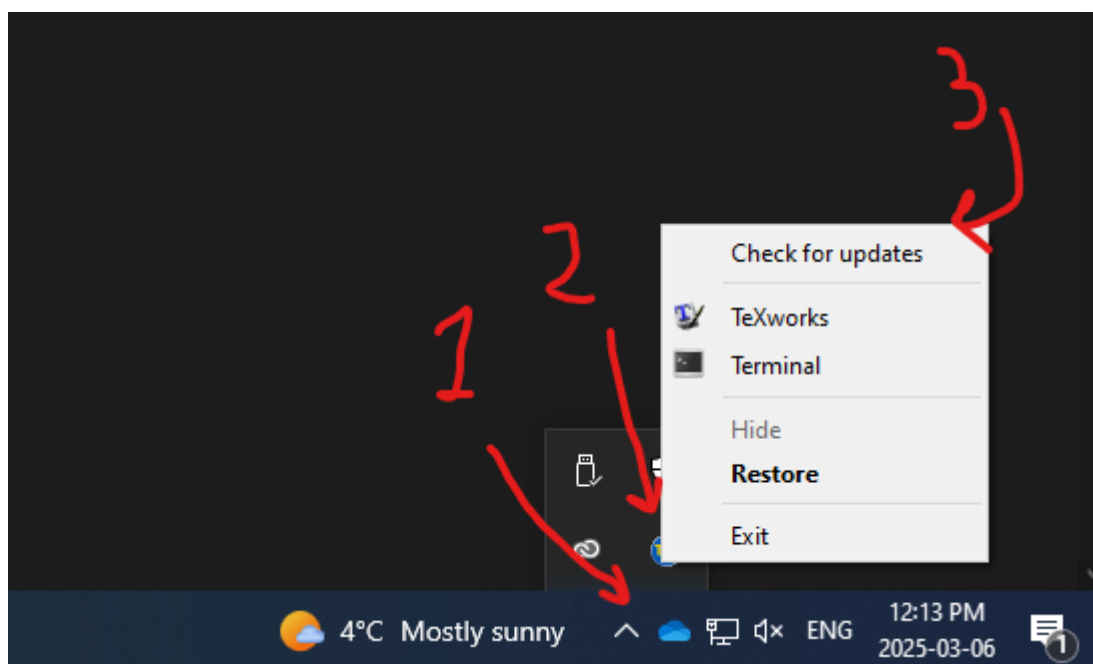
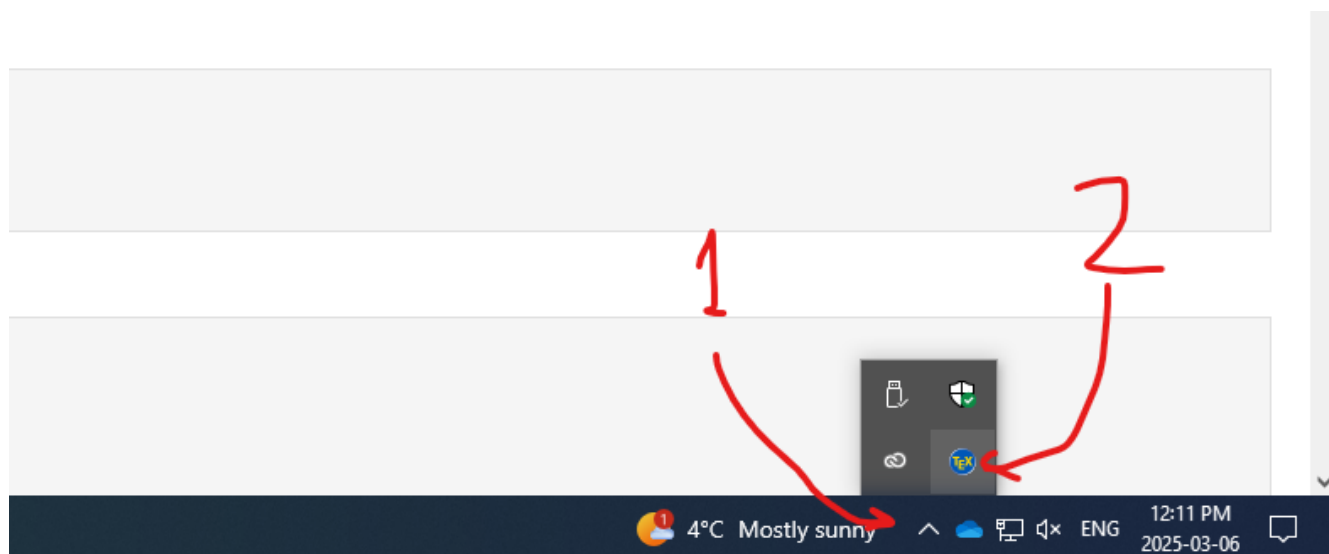
3. Follow install steps similar to below



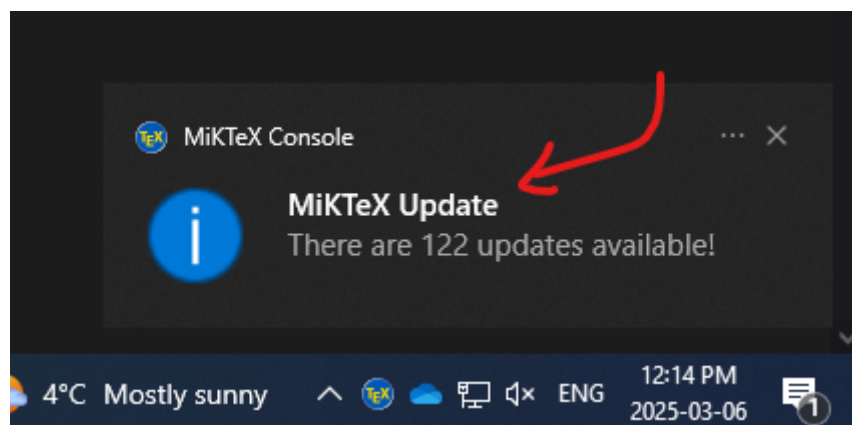




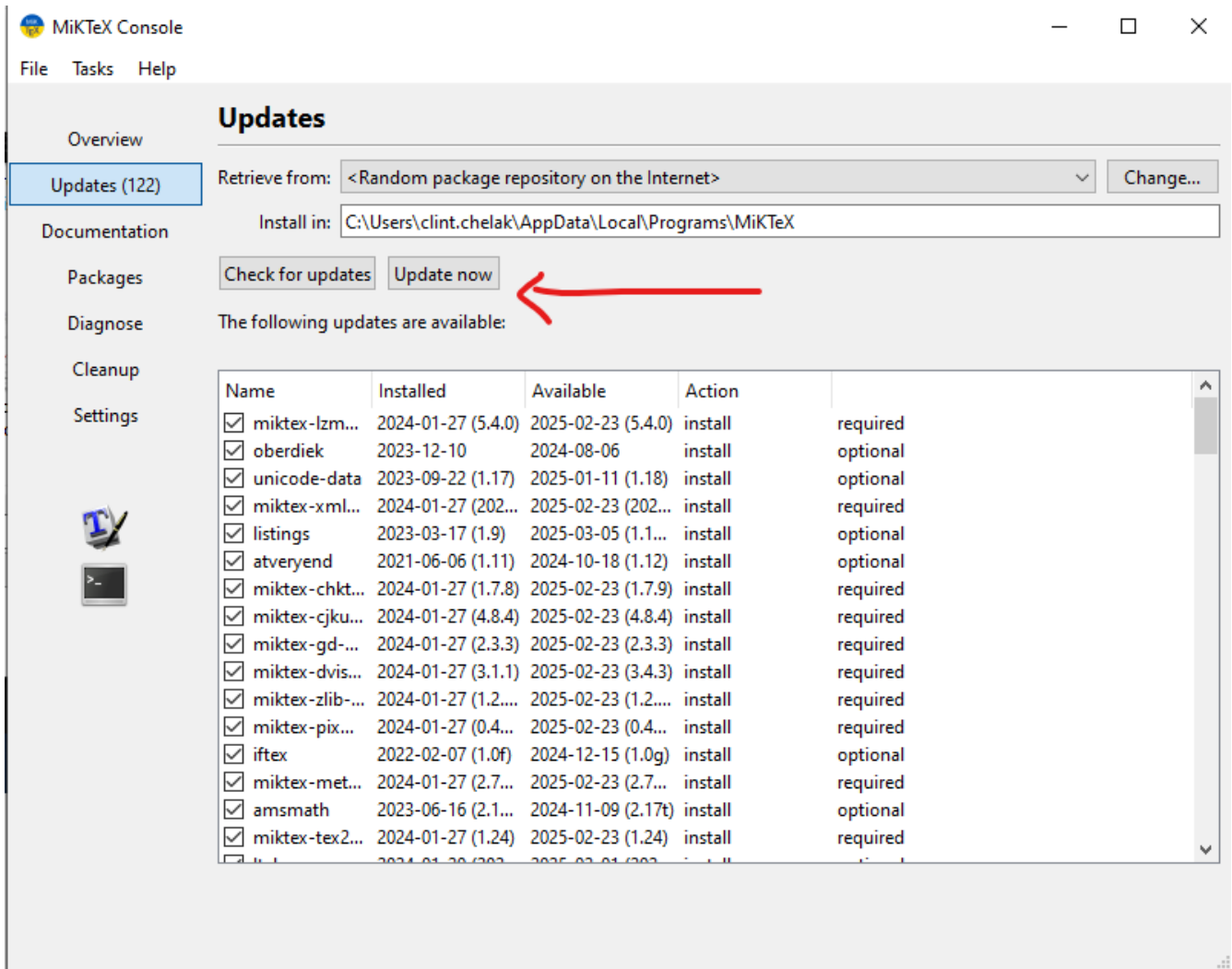
4. If you didn't check "Check for updates now" in the installer, or didn't see a popup like below that updates are available, run the updater by clicking the drop menu on the bottom of your windows tab and right-clicking the Miktex icon.



5. You should see a popup saying a “MiKTeX Update” is available. Click on it. It should start up the Miktex console.



6. When open, click Update



7. After the update, Miktex will inform you that it needs to close. Close down Miktex

8. After installing this and pandoc, restart Jupyter by stopping any processes in your command line or in your IDE (or whatever else you're using as a tool).

Exporting a Jupyter Notebook to PDF

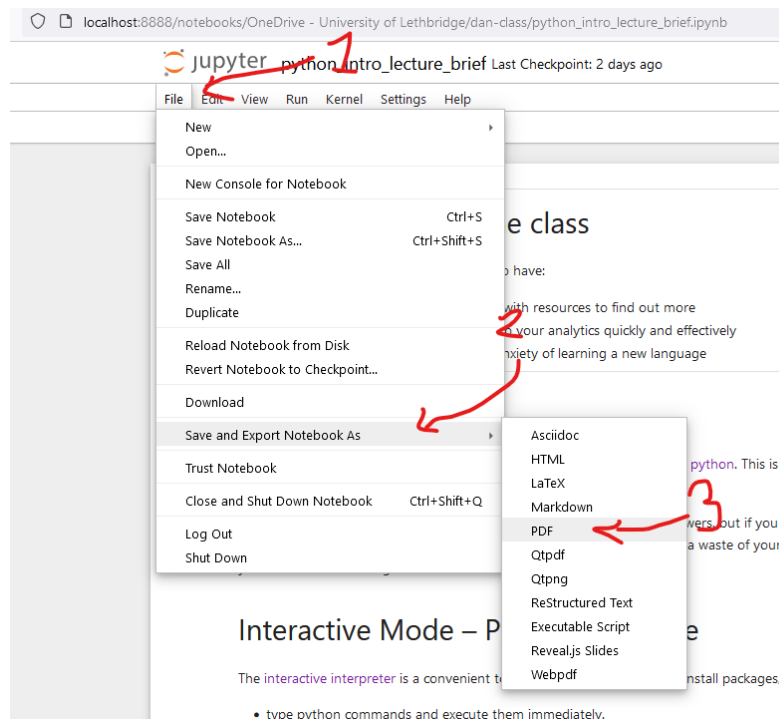
There are three good options for exporting a jupyter notebook to a pdf or HTML file from what we learned so far. All are listed below. If at any time you are getting errors like the ones seen below, visit the ["Installing tools..."](#) section above.

```
False PandocMissing()
nbconvert.utils.pandoc.PandocMissing: Pandoc wasn't found.
Please check that pandoc is installed:
https://pandoc.org/installing.html

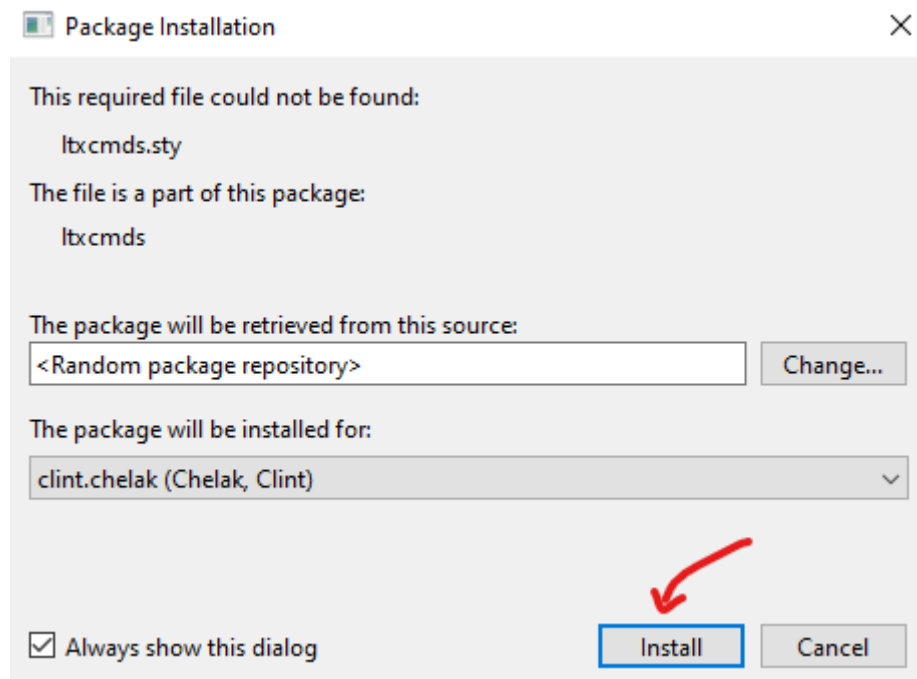
C:\Users\clint.chelak\OneDrive - University of Lethbridge\dan-class>
```

Through Jupyter Notebook IDE

1. Open the jupyter notebook you wish to export in the browser (see steps in section [above](#))
2. Click File > Save and Export Notebook As > PDF



3. A new tab will open. It will be loading for some time. Under the hood, it should be performing the export. **If it hangs, check for a window like the following.** The LaTeX tool may need to install some more libraries.



1. On your first run, a popup may appear many times. Feel free to click that check box saying not to show it every time. It will install the packages automatically in the background. It did leave me sitting on my hands for a while, though.
2. The first export took a long time for me. If it takes longer than 5 minutes, return the command line and press the arrow key to see if it updates.
3. When finished, the logs on the command line will print that it successfully exported

```
[I 2025-03-06 13:49:41.958 ServerApp] Writing 63367 bytes to notebook.tex
[I 2025-03-06 13:49:41.960 ServerApp] Building PDF
[I 2025-03-06 13:49:41.966 ServerApp] Running xelatex 3 times: ['xelatex', 'notebook.tex', '-quiet']
[I 2025-03-06 13:49:56.822 ServerApp] Running bibtex 1 time: ['bibtex', 'notebook']
[W 2025-03-06 13:49:57.434 ServerApp] b had problems, most likely because there were no citations
[I 2025-03-06 13:49:57.435 ServerApp] PDF successfully created
```

4. By default, the PDF should be saved to Downloads. Check your downloads file for a PDF matching the name of the Jupyter notebook (i.e. the “.ipynb” file).

Through the Windows Command Prompt

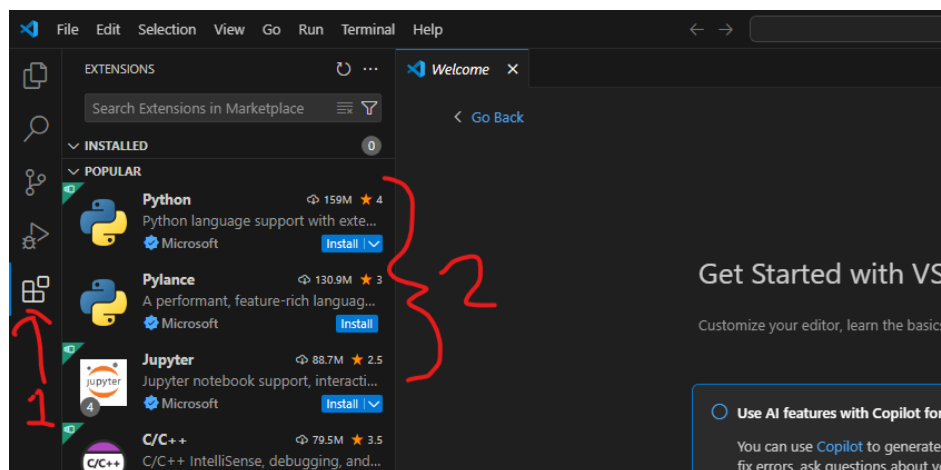
Exporting your file through command prompt can be a single line, and is probably the simplest, provided you know how to navigate the command prompt.

1. Open the command prompt (see end of [python installation steps](#))
2. Type the following into your browser, substituting the example path with your notebook path:
`jupyter nbconvert --to pdf C:\path\to-my\project\my_lab.ipynb`
 1. Note that it will save into the same folder as your notebook.

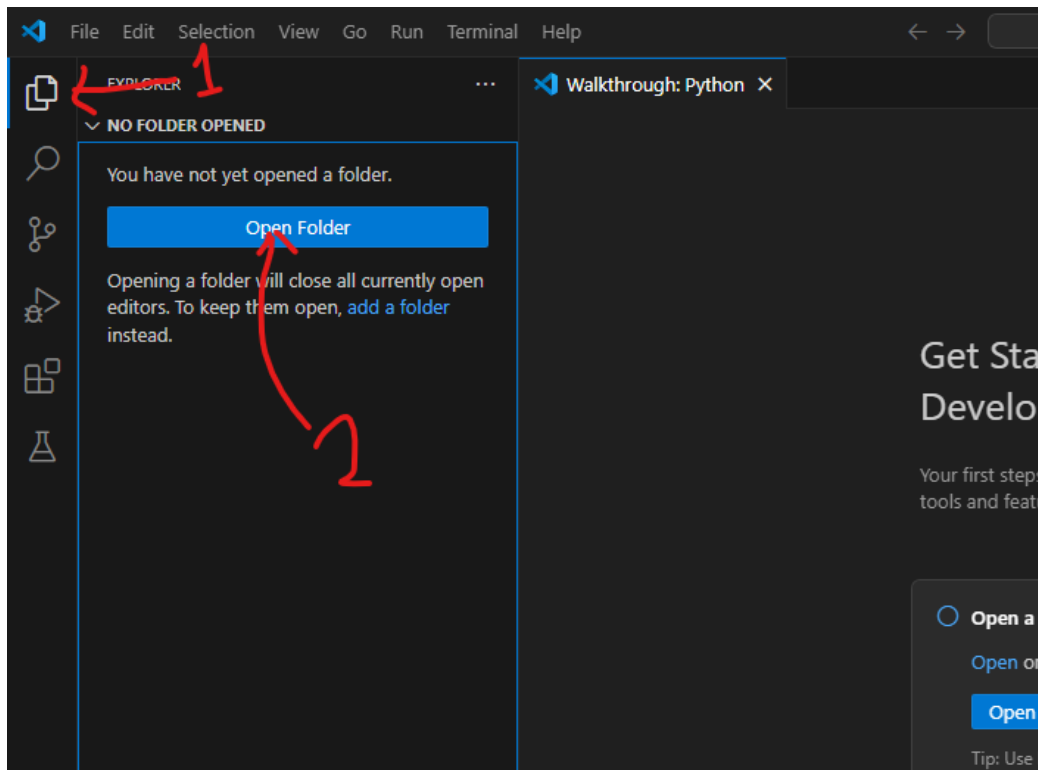
Through Visual Studio Code

With the Jupyter extension installed, exporting is built in on the file display.

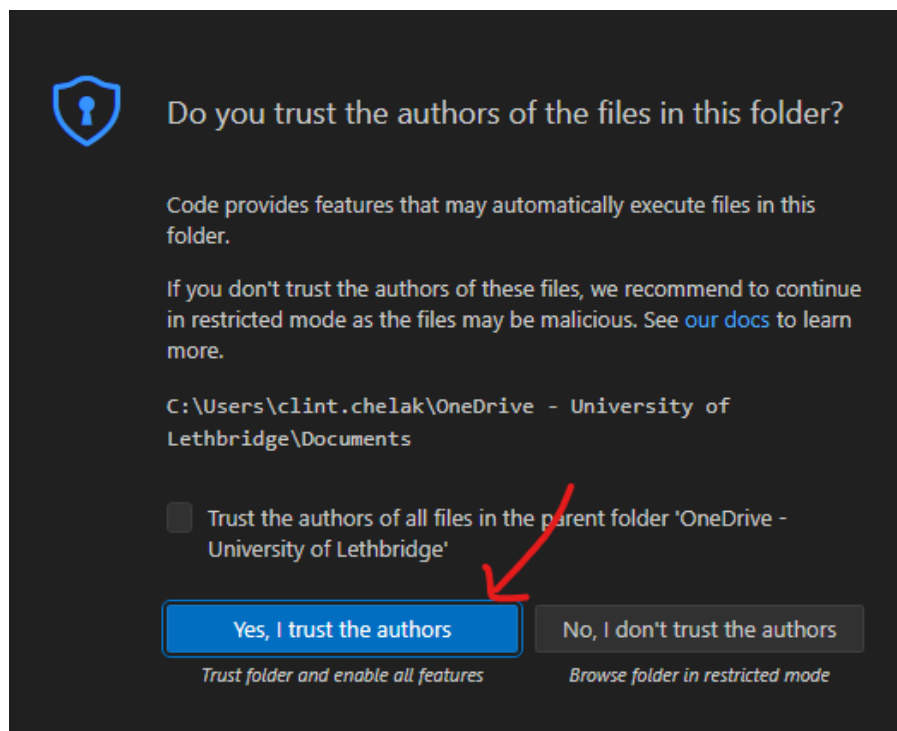
1. Open up the Visual Studio Code application from the start menu
2. Go to extensions. Install the Python and Jupyter extensions



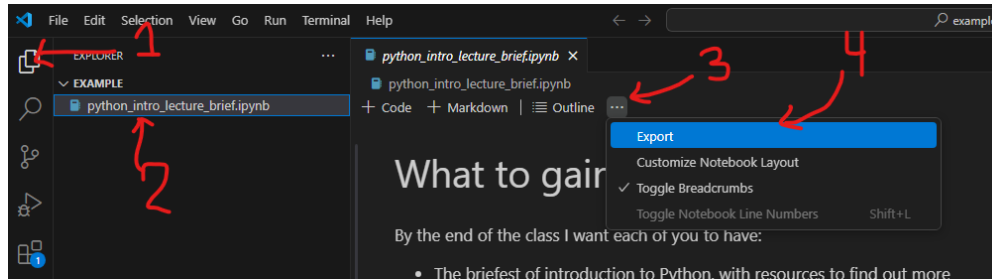
3. Click the folder icon. Click open folder. Navigate to the folder where you saved the “.ipynb” file.



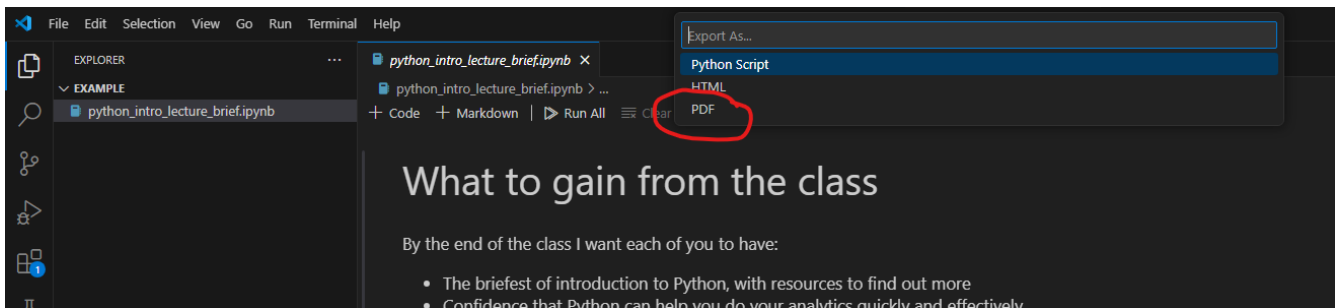
4. When it opens, a menu will ask if you trust the authors to of that folder, click that you do.



5. You should now see your folder displayed on the left tab, with your “.ipynb” file there. Click on it. Your file should open. At the top of the file, you should see an icon 3 dots (“...”). Click it, then click export.

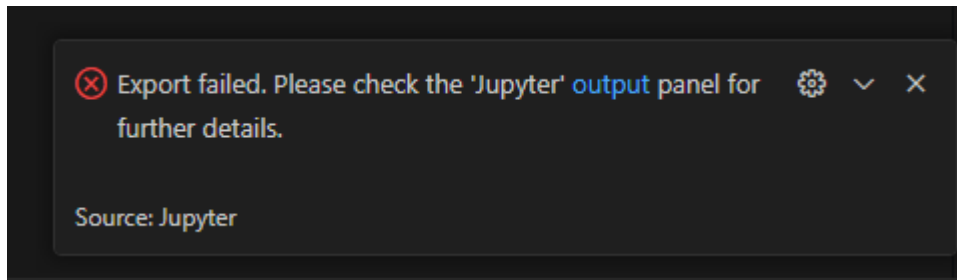


6. A drop-down menu from the top should appear. Click the export format you want (PDF).

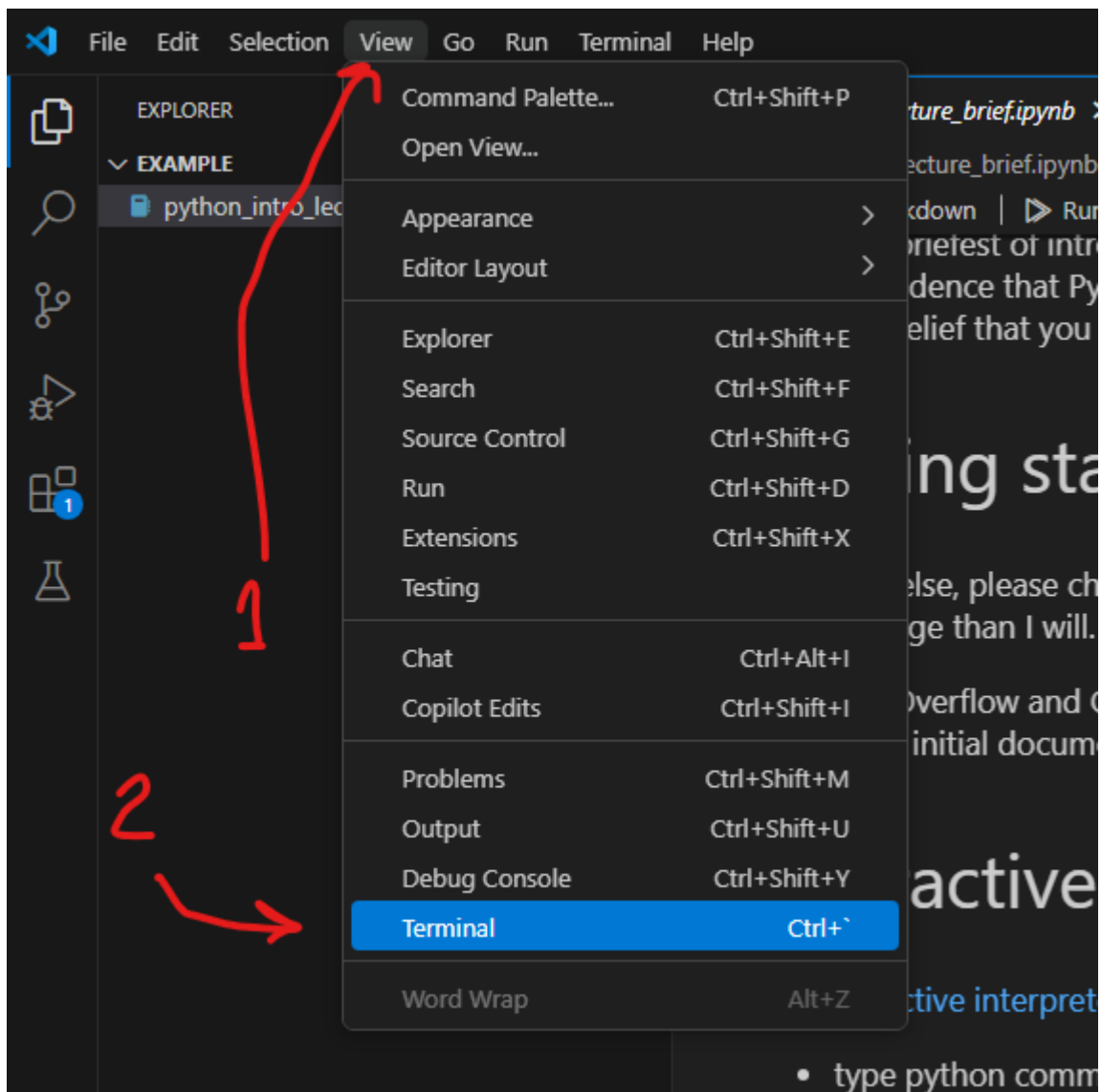


In the event of a failure during export, you will see a pop-up on the bottom-right corner of Visual Studio code. It gives instructions on how to see errors. I'll give an example below.

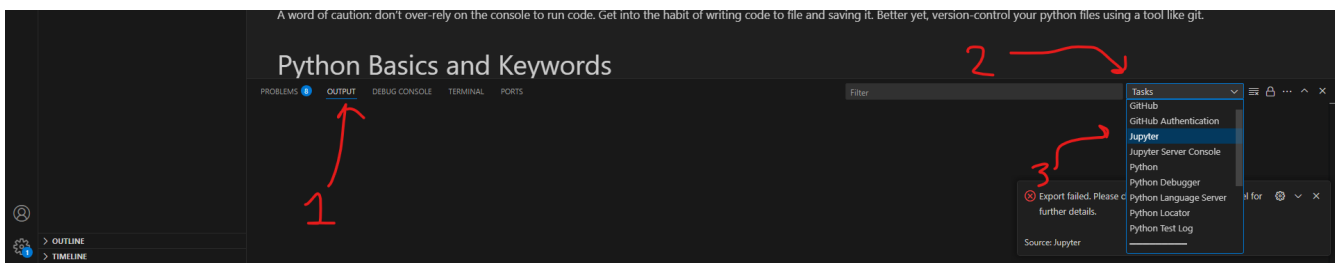
1. If a message like the following appears, we'll need to see the log output.



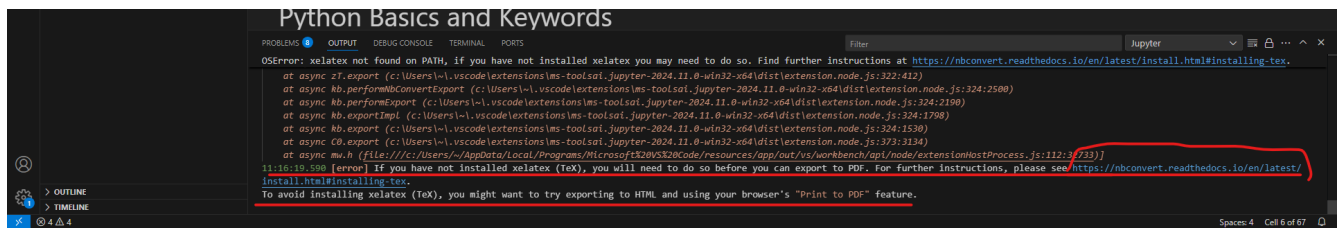
2. If you don't see a “Terminal” menu at the bottom of your screen, we should open it. Press `Ctrl + `` or click View > Terminal



3. On the bottom of your screen in the terminal menu, navigate to the Jupyter tab as follows:
 1. Click the “Output” tab
 2. Click the drop-down on the right, probably saying “Tasks”
 3. Navigate to the “Jupyter” option in the drop-down and click it.



4. Logs should appear in the output menu now, as seen below. Read the bottom lines to get a summary of what went wrong. For example, here I’m missing some pdf libraries.



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with a file named 'Python Basics and Keywords'. The 'TERMINAL' tab is active, displaying a series of asynchronous log messages. A red circle highlights an error message that occurs at 11:16:19.598. The error message states that 'xelatex' is not found on the PATH and provides a link to a documentation page for installing TeX. Below the error message, a red line of text suggests an alternative solution: exporting to HTML and using a browser's 'Print to PDF' feature.

```
Python Basics and Keywords
PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS
Jupyter
0SError: xelatex not found on PATH, if you have not installed xelatex you may need to do so. Find further instructions at https://nbconvert.readthedocs.io/en/latest/install.html#installing-tex.
at async 27.export (c:\Users\...\vscode\extensions\ms-toolsai-jupyter-2024.11.0-win32-x64\dist\extension.node.js:322:412)
at async kb.performNbConvertExport (c:\Users\...\vscode\extensions\ms-toolsai-jupyter-2024.11.0-win32-x64\dist\extension.node.js:324:2500)
at async kb.performExport (c:\Users\...\vscode\extensions\ms-toolsai-jupyter-2024.11.0-win32-x64\dist\extension.node.js:324:2198)
at async kb.exportImpl (c:\Users\...\vscode\extensions\ms-toolsai-jupyter-2024.11.0-win32-x64\dist\extension.node.js:324:1798)
at async kb.export (c:\Users\...\vscode\extensions\ms-toolsai-jupyter-2024.11.0-win32-x64\dist\extension.node.js:324:1530)
at async C0.export (c:\Users\...\vscode\extensions\ms-toolsai-jupyter-2024.11.0-win32-x64\dist\extension.node.js:373:3134)
at async mu.h (file:///c:/Users/~/AppData/Local/Programs/MicrosoftVS20VS20Code/resources/app/out/vs/workbench/api/node/extensionHostProcess.js:112:3733)
11:16:19.598 [error] If you have not installed xelatex (TeX), you will need to do so before you can export to PDF. For further instructions, please see https://nbconvert.readthedocs.io/en/latest/install.html#installing-tex.
To avoid installing xelatex (TeX), you might want to try exporting to HTML and using your browser's "Print to PDF" feature.
```

As with just about everything with Visual Studio Code, there are shortcuts to get to these menus quicker. Review Visual Studio Code documentation to see results in a few key presses.