



Photo by Tim Trad on Unsplash

DATA SCIENCE

7 Essential Tips for Writing With Jupyter Notebook

Guide for your first data science article



Shinichi Okada [Follow](#)

Feb 1 · 12 min read ★

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Introduction

Jupyter Notebook is a great tool to create and share a document containing code, visualization, and text. In this article, I will cover helpful tips for your first Data Science article with Jupyter Notebook.

If you want to read a beginner's guide to Jupyter Notebook, please read this article.

The Ultimate Guide to Your Terminal Makeover

The best 11 minutes you'll spend today: The terminal tips for programmers
towardsdatascience.com

Beginner's Guide to Jupyter Notebook

From the setup to the descriptive statistics
towardsdatascience.com

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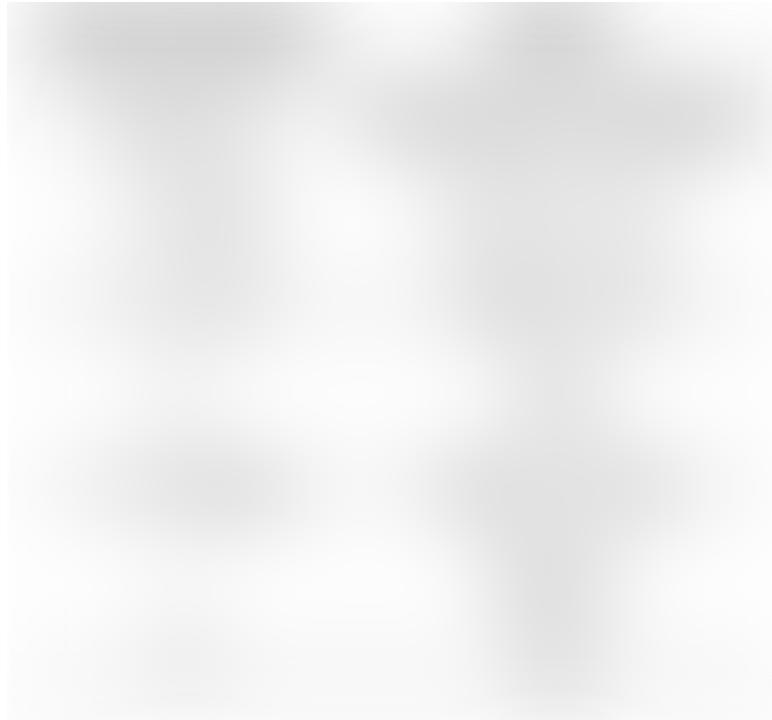
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Help, shortcuts and number lines

Shortcuts will speed up your writing. Pressing `h` toggles the keyboards shortcuts screen.

You can see all commands by pressing `⌘↑f`. I use the following shortcuts often and it will be useful if you can memorize them.



Mac & Windows Keyboard symbols. Photo: Shinichi Okada



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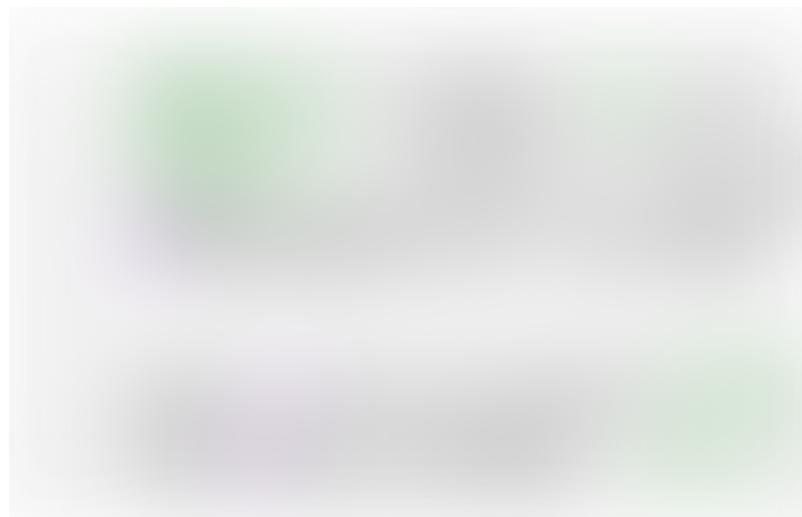
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Mac Jupyter Notebook shortcuts. Photo: Shinichi Okada

Line numbers on

It is a good idea to have line numbers on in your Jupyter Notebook. When you have an error, it is easy to find the line. Besides the above shortcut, you can also use View > Toggle Line Numbers.



Line numbers on in a Jupyter Notebook cell. Photo: Shinichi Okada

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Theme

A nice Jupyter theme for your Jupyter Notebook is like a nice pillow for your sleep. You are going to spend a lot of time writing with Jupyter Notebook, let's find a nice theme for your taste and modify font sizes.

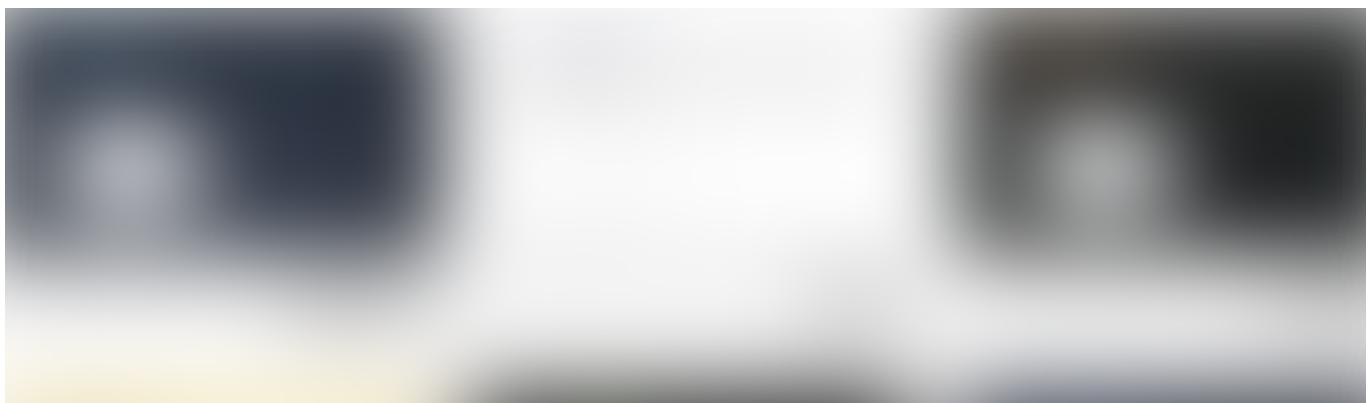
Let's install JupyterThemes. Open your terminal and type the following. For PIP users;

```
pip install jupyterthemes  
pip install --upgrade jupyterthemes
```

For Conda users;

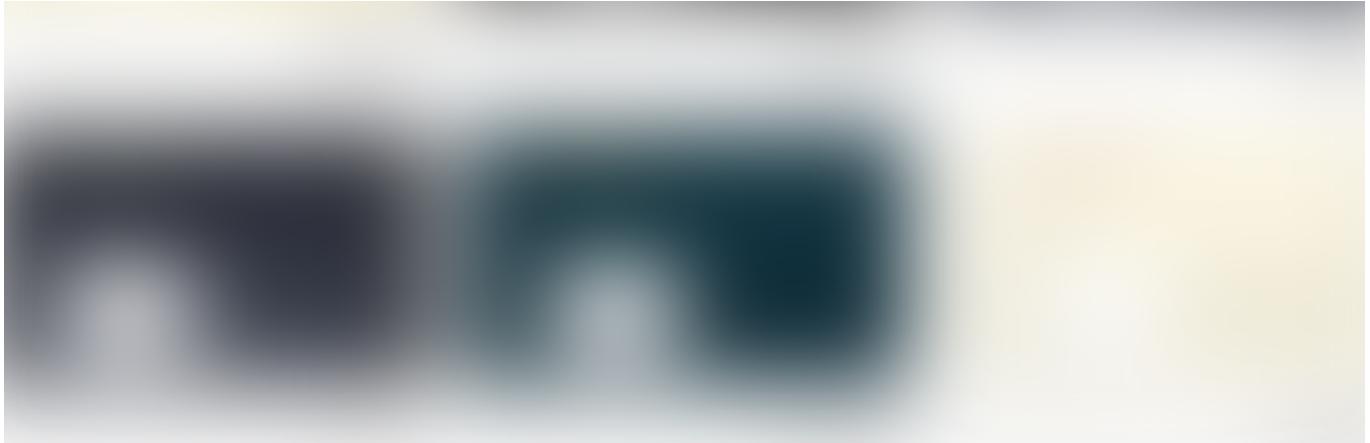
```
conda install -c conda-forge jupyterthemes
```

There are nine themes, chesterish, grade3, ggruvboxd, gruvboxl, monokai, oceans16, onedork, solarizedd, solarizedl.



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Jupyter Notebook themes. Photo: Shinichi Okada

If you want to use ocean16, please put the following in a Jupyter Notebook cell and hit shift+enter.

```
!jt -t oceans16
```

If you want to reset the theme, use this code.

```
!jt -r
```

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Hands-On Jupyter Notebook Hacks

Hacks, tips and shortcuts you should be using

towardsdatascience.com

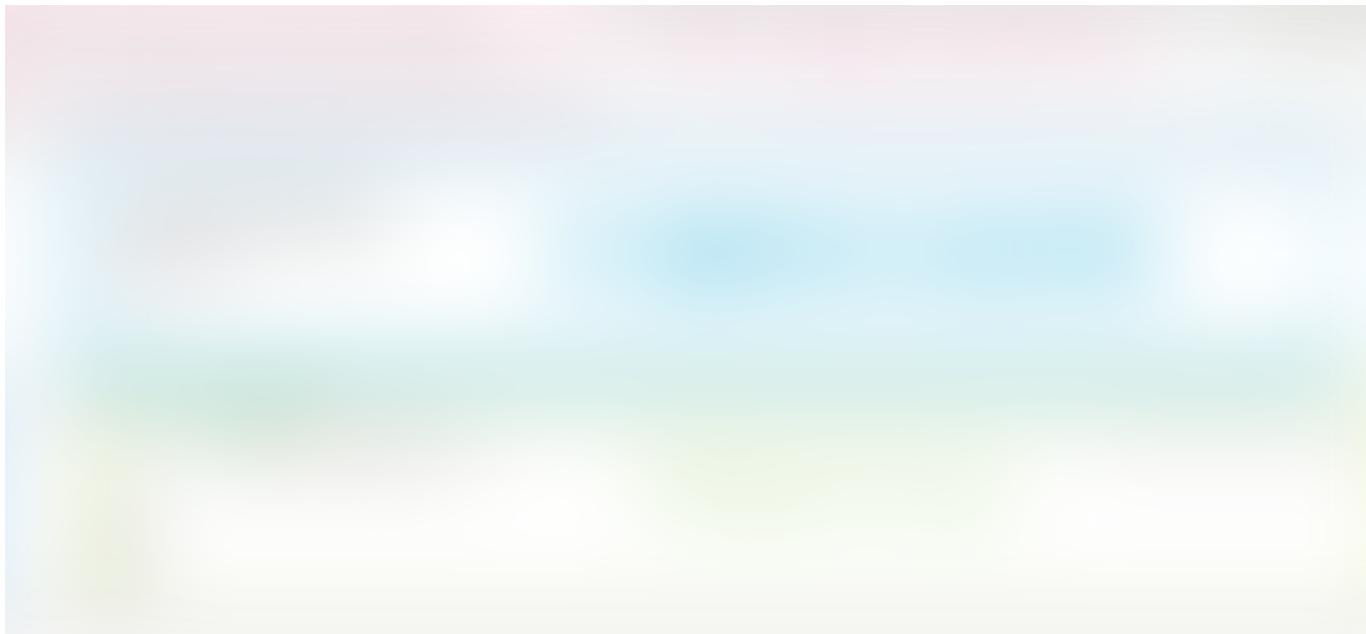
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Font & font size

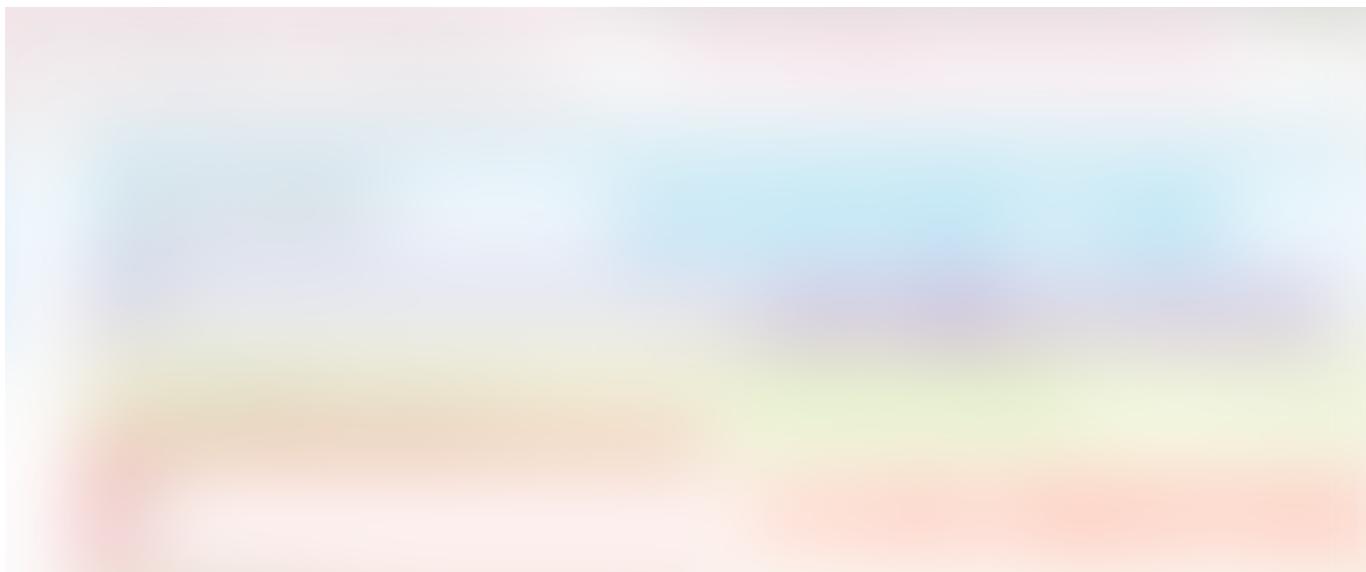
Method one

The following image shows the position of fonts.



Jupyter Notebook font names and its option names.

The following image shows the font size.



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Jupyter Notebook font size names and its option names.

If you want to change the text cell font and font size you can type the following in a cell and hit shift+enter.

```
!jt -t oceans16 -tf merriserif -tfs 14 -nf ptsans -nfs 14
```

You can find all the font types here.

Let's try a different setting.

```
!jt -t grade3 -tf firacode -tfs 13 -mathfs 110 -fs 13 -N -T
```

Method two

If you do not want to change the theme but want to change the font size and font, then you need to change the Jupyter Notebook CSS. Open `.jupyter/custom/custom.css` in an editor. If you don't have an editor, please install the VS code.

And paste the following to the file. You can change `font-size:130%` to any number as you like.

```
div#notebook p, div#notebook{  
    font-size: 130%;  
    line-height: 125%;  
}  
  
.rendered_html pre, .rendered_html table{  
    font-size:130%;
```

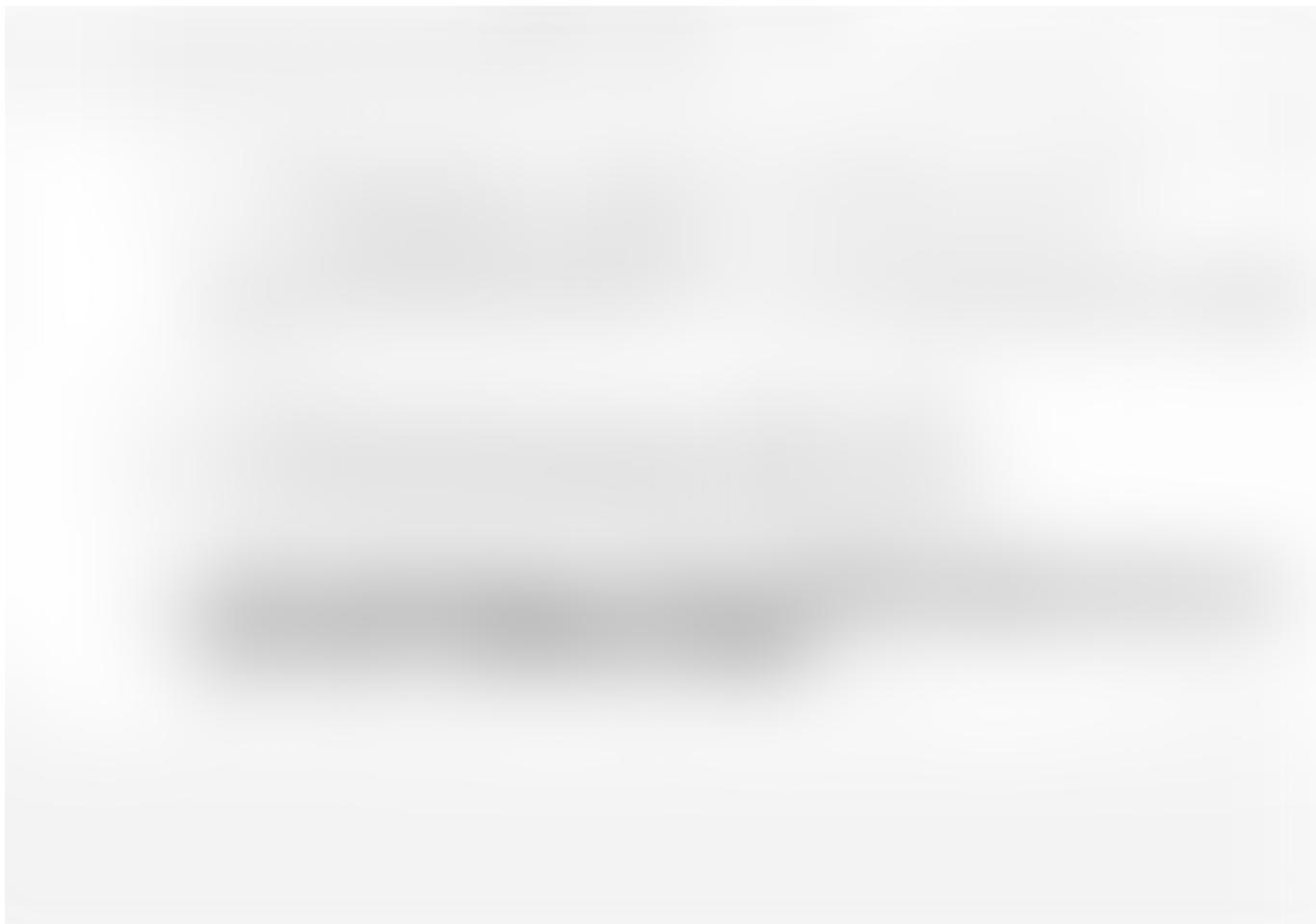
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```
line-height: 125%;  
}
```

Save the file and reload the page to see the change.

Method Three (only for code cells)



This could be the easiest for code cell fonts. This does not work with markdown cells.

In the Nbextensions, you enable the Code Font Size.



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Version Control with Jupyter Notebook

A Step-By-Step Guide to Jupytext

towardsdatascience.com

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Markdown

Markdown is a lightweight markup language with plain-text-formatting syntax.
(Wikipedia)

How to change the cell to markdown

One way to change a cell to markdown is by selecting Markdown from a dropdown.



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Cell options. Photo: Shinichi Okada

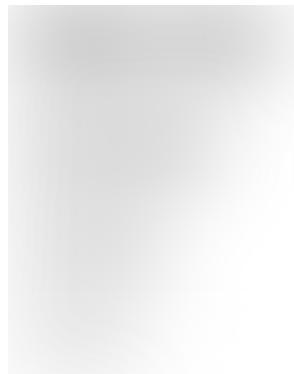
Another way is to use a shortcut, `m` after selecting a cell. You may need to press escape if you are typing `m` in the cell, `y` to change to code and `r` to change to raw.

Headers

Use `#` for H1, `##` for H2 etc.

```
# Main title  
## Sub title  
### H3 title  
#### H4 title
```

The above will print out the following.



Jupyter Notebook Markdown header examples. Photo: Shinichi Okada

List

You can use `*` or `—` to create a nested unordered list and use numbers for an ordered list.

```
- main 1  
  - sub 1  
    ---  
      ^
```

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- Sub list 2-2
- 3. Main list 3

The above produces the following.



Jupyter Notebook Markdown list examples. Photo: Shinichi Okada

Links

Markdown links use parentheses immediately after the link text like `[Link name] (url)`.

`[Google] (https://www.google.com)`

The above code produces, Google.

Image

Markdown image syntax is like Links syntax but you prefix it with an exclamation mark like `![alt text] (link)`.

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The above markdown produces:



Jupyter Notebook image example.

Tables

To add a table, use three or more hyphens (—) to create each column's header, and use pipes (|) to separate each column. You can optionally add pipes on either end of the table. Use :---: to center a column, :--- to align left.

```
Id | Syntax      | Description
--|:-----:|:-----:
1 | Header      | Something very long long long here
2 | Long long long paragraph | Text
```

The rendered output looks like this:



Jupyter Notebook Markdown table example. Photo: Shinichi Okada

If you want to know more about markdown, please read this page.

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LaTeX is widely used in academia for the communication and publication of scientific documents in many fields.

- You need to enclose them in dollar(\$) signs.

To align to the left use a single dollar(\$) sign. $\$P(A) = \frac{n(A)}{n(U)} \$$



Jupyter Notebook LaTeX example aligned left. Photo: Shinichi Okada

- To align to the center, use double dollar(\$\$) signs. $\$\$P(A) = \frac{n(A)}{n(U)} \$\$$



Jupyter Notebook LaTeX example, aligned center. Photo: Shinichi Okada

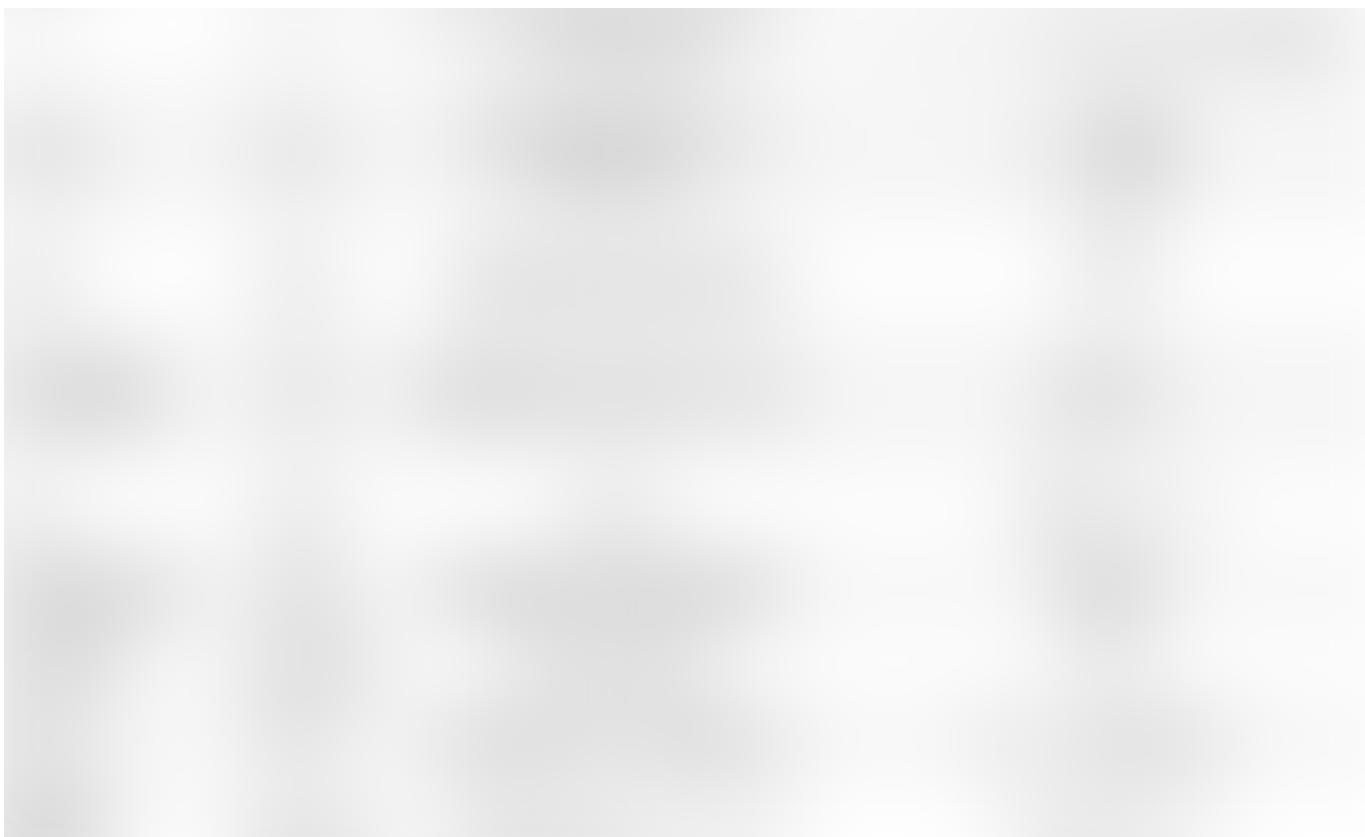
- Use `\limits` for `\lim`, `\sum` and `\int` to add limits to the top and the bottom of each sign.
- Use a backslash to escape LaTeX special words such as Math symbols, Latin words, text, etc.

The following table shows basic LaTeX commands.

Command	Description
<code>\text{}</code>	Text
<code>\frac{}</code>	Fraction
<code>\sqrt{}</code>	Square Root
<code>\sum_{}</code>	Summation
<code>\prod_{}</code>	Product
<code>\int_{}</code>	Integral
<code>\lim_{}</code>	Limit
<code>\sin{}</code>	Sine
<code>\cos{}</code>	Cosine
<code>\tan{}</code>	Tangent
<code>\sqrt[n]{}</code>	n-th Root
<code>\sqrt[3]{}</code>	Cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[4]{}</code>	Quartic Root
<code>\sqrt[5]{}</code>	Pentacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[6]{}</code>	Hexacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[7]{}</code>	Heptacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[8]{}</code>	Octacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[9]{}</code>	Nonacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[10]{}</code>	Decacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[11]{}</code>	Undecacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[12]{}</code>	Dodecacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[13]{}</code>	Tridecacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[14]{}</code>	Tetradecacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[15]{}</code>	Pentadecacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[16]{}</code>	Hexadecacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[17]{}</code>	Heptadecacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[18]{}</code>	Octadecacubic Root
<code>\sqrt[19]{}</code>	Nineteen cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[20]{}</code>	Twenty cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[21]{}</code>	Twenty-one cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[22]{}</code>	Twenty-two cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[23]{}</code>	Twenty-three cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[24]{}</code>	Twenty-four cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[25]{}</code>	Twenty-five cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[26]{}</code>	Twenty-six cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[27]{}</code>	Twenty-seven cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[28]{}</code>	Twenty-eight cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[29]{}</code>	Twenty-nine cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[30]{}</code>	Thirty cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[31]{}</code>	Thirty-one cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[32]{}</code>	Thirty-two cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[33]{}</code>	Thirty-three cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[34]{}</code>	Thirty-four cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[35]{}</code>	Thirty-five cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[36]{}</code>	Thirty-six cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[37]{}</code>	Thirty-seven cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[38]{}</code>	Thirty-eight cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[39]{}</code>	Thirty-nine cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[40]{}</code>	Forty cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[41]{}</code>	Forty-one cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[42]{}</code>	Forty-two cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[43]{}</code>	Forty-three cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[44]{}</code>	Forty-four cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[45]{}</code>	Forty-five cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[46]{}</code>	Forty-six cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[47]{}</code>	Forty-seven cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[48]{}</code>	Forty-eight cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[49]{}</code>	Forty-nine cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[50]{}</code>	Fifty cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[51]{}</code>	Fifty-one cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[52]{}</code>	Fifty-two cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[53]{}</code>	Fifty-three cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[54]{}</code>	Fifty-four cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[55]{}</code>	Fifty-five cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[56]{}</code>	Fifty-six cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[57]{}</code>	Fifty-seven cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[58]{}</code>	Fifty-eight cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[59]{}</code>	Fifty-nine cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[60]{}</code>	Sixty cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[61]{}</code>	Sixty-one cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[62]{}</code>	Sixty-two cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[63]{}</code>	Sixty-three cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[64]{}</code>	Sixty-four cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[65]{}</code>	Sixty-five cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[66]{}</code>	Sixty-six cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[67]{}</code>	Sixty-seven cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[68]{}</code>	Sixty-eight cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[69]{}</code>	Sixty-nine cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[70]{}</code>	Seventy cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[71]{}</code>	Seventy-one cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[72]{}</code>	Seventy-two cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[73]{}</code>	Seventy-three cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[74]{}</code>	Seventy-four cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[75]{}</code>	Seventy-five cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[76]{}</code>	Seventy-six cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[77]{}</code>	Seventy-seven cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[78]{}</code>	Seventy-eight cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[79]{}</code>	Seventy-nine cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[80]{}</code>	Eighty cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[81]{}</code>	Eighty-one cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[82]{}</code>	Eighty-two cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[83]{}</code>	Eighty-three cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[84]{}</code>	Eighty-four cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[85]{}</code>	Eighty-five cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[86]{}</code>	Eighty-six cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[87]{}</code>	Eighty-seven cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[88]{}</code>	Eighty-eight cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[89]{}</code>	Eighty-nine cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[90]{}</code>	Ninety cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[91]{}</code>	Ninety-one cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[92]{}</code>	Ninety-two cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[93]{}</code>	Ninety-three cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[94]{}</code>	Ninety-four cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[95]{}</code>	Ninety-five cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[96]{}</code>	Ninety-six cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[97]{}</code>	Ninety-seven cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[98]{}</code>	Ninety-eight cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[99]{}</code>	Ninety-nine cubic Root
<code>\sqrt[100]{}</code>	One hundred cubic Root

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Jupyter Notebook LaTeX examples. Photo: Shinichi Okada

For more information please see this article or this link. For mathematical symbols, see this link.

Can you write the following equation for mean in LaTeX?

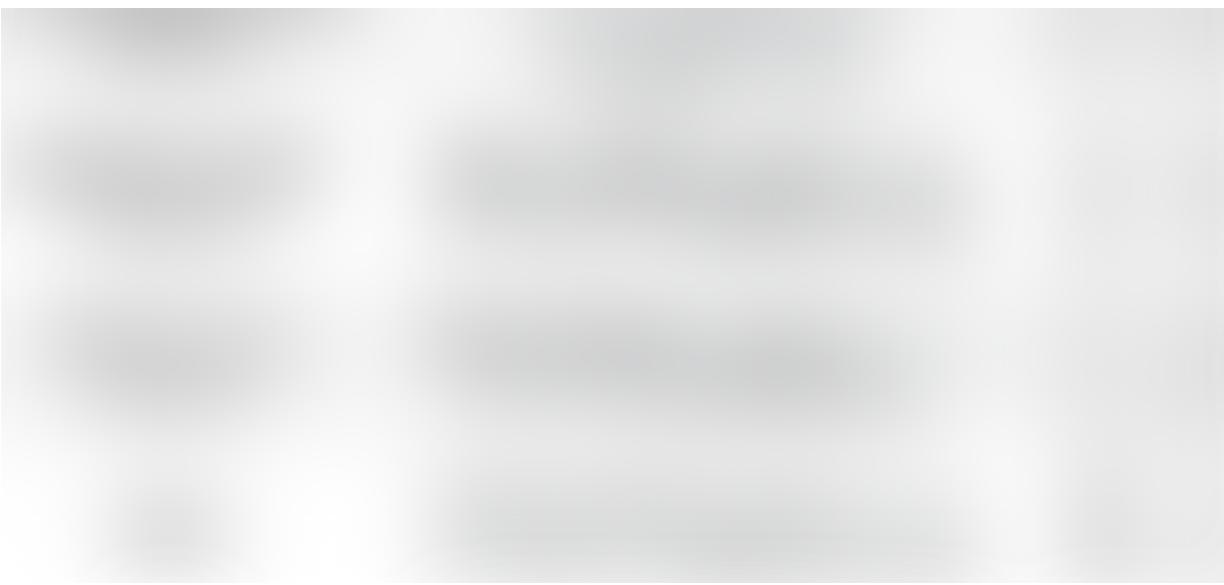


Jupyter Notebook LaTeX equation example. Photo: Shinichi Okada

Matrices

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Jupyter Notebook LaTeX matrices examples. Photo: Shinichi Okada

cases for piecewise functions

`\begin{cases} ... \end{cases}` renders multiple lines with a left curly-brace.

```
$$
\begin{aligned}
\text{Probability density function:} \\
\begin{cases}
\frac{1}{b-a} & \text{for } x \in [a, b] \\
0 & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\\
\text{Cumulative distribution function:} \\
\begin{cases}
0 & \text{for } x < a \\
\frac{x-a}{b-a} & \text{for } x \in [a, b] \\
1 & \text{for } x \geq b
\end{cases}
\end{aligned}
$$
```

The above codes produce the following.

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Jupyter Notebook LaTeX piecewise function examples. Photo: Shinichi Okada

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Jupyter Notebook LaTeX equation numbering & alignment

Equation numbering

For equation numbering, you need to add `jupyter_contrib_nbextensions`.

PIP

If you installed your Jupyter Notebook using `pip`, you can install `jupyter_contrib_nbextension` from a Jupyter Notebook cell.

```
!pip install jupyter_contrib_nbextensions
```

Then you need to install CSS.

```
!jupyter contrib nbextension install --user
```

Or from a terminal without `!.`

```
pip install jupyter_contrib_nbextensions
```

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If your installation is through Conda, then run the following from a Jupyter Notebook cell or a terminal.

```
jupyter contrib nbextension install --user
```

Refresh your browser and you should see the Nbextensions tab in the main menu.



Jupyter Notebook Nbextensions tab. Photo: Shinichi Okada

Click the Nbextensions tab and search Equation Auto Numbering. Click the box to enable the extension.



Jupyter Notebook Equation Auto Numbering. Photo: Shinichi Okada

Refresh the browser and try the following equations to see the equation numbers. Please

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```
$$
\begin{aligned}
{x} &= \sigma(y-x) \\
{y} &= \rho x - y - xz \\
{x+y+z} &= -\beta z + xy
\end{aligned}
$$
```

Jupyter Notebook LaTeX equation numbering example. Photo: Shinichi Okada

Newline and tag

Refresh the browser and try the following equations to see the equation numbers. You can add equation numbers using `\tag{}`. The double back-slashes `\\"` is for a new line. You need to enclose all equations with `\begin{align}`` and ``\end{align}`.

```
$$
\begin{aligned}
{x} &= \sigma(y-x) \tag{1-1} \\
{y} &= \rho x - y - xz \tag{1-2} \\
{x+y+z} &= -\beta z + xy \tag{1-3}
\end{aligned}
$$
```

Jupyter Notebook LaTeX equation numbering example using align and tab. Photo: Shinichi Okada

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Aligning at equal signs

By adding & symbol, equations will be aligned at that point. For example, if you want to align equations at equal symbol, use &= .

```
$$
\begin{aligned}
x &= \sigma(y-x) \tag{3-1} \\
y &= \rho x - y - xz \tag{3-2} \\
x+y+z &= -\beta z + xy \tag{3-3}
\end{aligned}
$$
```



Jupyter Notebook LaTeX equations aligned at equal signs. Photo: Shinichi Okada

Left alignment

```
$$
\begin{aligned}
& x = \sigma(y-x) \tag{4-1} \\
& y = \rho x - y - xz \tag{4-2} \\
& x+y+z = -\beta z + xy \tag{4-3}
\end{aligned}
$$
```



Jupyter Notebook LaTeX equations aligned left. Photo: Shinichi Okada

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```
$\text{Normal distribution} \\$\$\text{X} \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2) \\$\$\text{Probability density function} \\$\$\frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2 \pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2 \sigma^2}}
```



Jupyter Notebook LaTeX equations mixed alignment. Photo: Shinichi Okada

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Two columns

If you want to create two columns layout, you can try this method.

Please copy and paste the following to one of the cells.

```
<div class="row">
  <div class="column">
```

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```
-- | :-----: | :-----:
1|Header      | Something here
2|More here   | Text

</div>

<div class="column">
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Maecenas
quis nunc pulvinar urna faucibus tincidunt ut vestibulum ligula. Sed
placerat sollicitudin erat, quis dapibus nibh tempor non.
<br/>

$$
\begin{aligned}
\{x\} &= \sigma(y-x) \tag{3-1} \\
\{y\} &= \rho x - y - xz \tag{3-2} \\
\{x+y+z\} &= -\beta z + xy \tag{3-3}
\end{aligned}
$$

</div>
</div>
```

Next, you need to add CSS styles to one of the cells. (This includes codes from “How to print out from Jupyter Notebook without code blocks” which you can find it later of this article.)

```
%%html
<style>
    @media print {
        * {
            box-sizing: border-box;
        }

        .row {
            display: flex;
        }

        /* Create two equal columns that sits next to each other */
        .column {
            flex: 50%;
            padding: 10px;
        }
    }

```

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```
div.output_prompt {  
    display: none;  
    padding: 0;  
}  
div.text_cell_render {  
    padding: 1pt;  
}  
div#notebook p,  
div#notebook,  
div#notebook li,  
p {  
    font-size: 10pt;  
    line-height: 115%;  
    margin: 0;  
}  
.rendered_html h1,  
.rendered_html h1:first-child {  
    font-size: 10pt;  
    margin: 3pt 0;  
}  
.rendered_html h2,  
.rendered_html h2:first-child {  
    font-size: 10pt;  
    margin: 3pt 0;  
}  
.rendered_html h3,  
.rendered_html h3:first-child {  
    font-size: 10pt;  
    margin: 3pt 0;  
}  
div.output_subarea {  
    padding: 0;  
}  
div.input_prompt{  
    display: none;  
    padding: 0;  
}  
}
```

{}

Here I am using CSS flexbox. Flexbox is a modern way of creating multiple columns. You need to execute the cells and use the browser's print to see the effects.

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Two columns

Page break



Raw NBConvert

Create a Raw NBConvert cell and add this code.

```
<div style="page-break-after: always;"></div>
```

Go to Jupyter Notebook, File, Print Preview.



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Then go to the Browser's File, Print or Cmd+p to print the pages.

Footnotes

Add the following to a cell.

```
This is a example of footnote[<sup>1</sup>] (#fn1). And this is another footnote[<sup>2</sup>] (#fn2).
```

In another cell, you add the following.

```
<span id="fn1"> Your footnote 1 here.</span>
<span id="fn2"> Your footnote 2 here.</span>
```

By clicking the superscript, it will jump to its footnote.

Writing tools

Before publishing your article, I always need to check grammar and words.

- Grammarly

As of the time of writing this article, Grammarly does not work on a browser. So you have to copy and paste to the web app or a desktop app.

- Hemingway Editor

After checking with Grammarly, the Hemingway App is the next tool to make your article bold and clear. Even though your audience is an adult, aim Grade 6 for readability in Hemingway App.

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Jupyter Notebook writing tools, Hemingway editor.

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How to print out from Jupyter Notebook without code blocks

Once you are done with your writing and if you want to export to PDF file, you can print out as PDF.

There are several ways to do this. But I came up with a method that is the easiest and flexible.

You need to copy and paste the following code into one of your cells. Then go to File, Print Preview. The code blocks and Output blocks will be removed. Heading paddings and margins are adjusted for printing. You can adjust the codes whatever you like using this method.

I found that Raw NBConvert block will have no div or class in a print view, so it is hard to control the blocks. I recommend not using Raw NBConvert for printing.

```
%%html
<style>
    @media print {
        div.input {
            display: none;
            padding: 0;
        }
    }

```

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X

```
div.text_cell_render {  
    padding: 1pt;  
}  
  
div#notebook p,  
div#notebook,  
div#notebook li,  
p {  
    font-size: 11pt;  
    line-height: 135%;  
    margin: 0;  
}  
  
.rendered_html h1,  
.rendered_html h1:first-child {  
    font-size: 16pt;  
    margin: 7pt 0;  
}  
  
.rendered_html h2,  
.rendered_html h2:first-child {  
    font-size: 14pt;  
    margin: 6pt 0;  
}  
  
.rendered_html h3,  
.rendered_html h3:first-child {  
    font-size: 13pt;  
    margin: 6pt 0;  
}  
  
div.output_subarea {  
    padding: 0;  
}  
}  
  
@page {  
    size: A4;  
}  
</style>
```

Go to the browser print, File > Print, and you need to select blank in Page Headers and Page Footers.

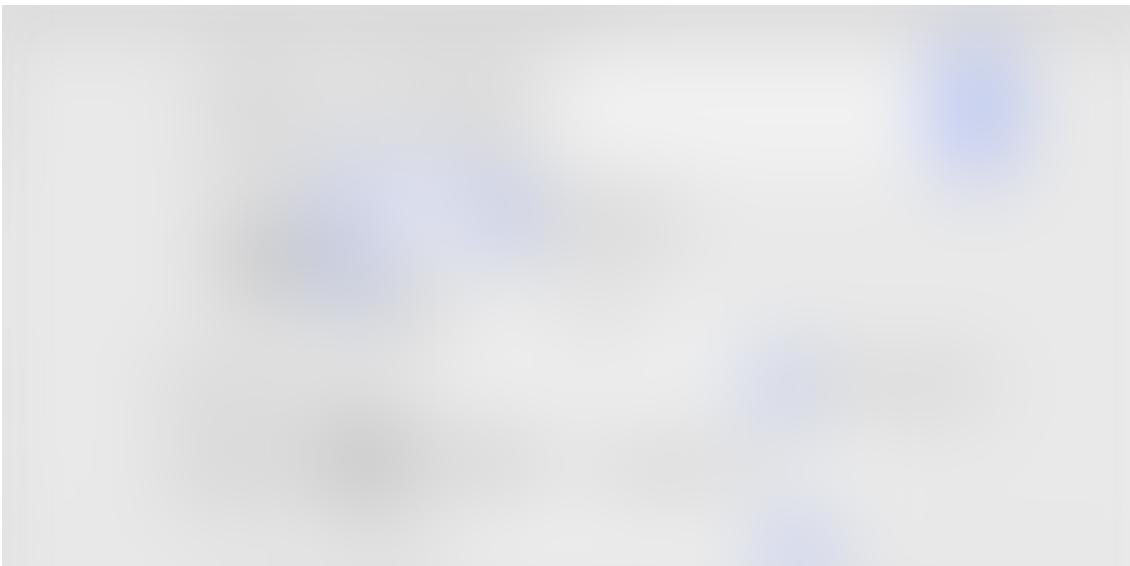
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You need to select blank in Page Headers and Page Footers. Photo: Shinichi Okada

Now you can print out this HTML page or export it to PDF without code and headers/footers.



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Select Open in Preview or Save as PDF. Photo: Shinichi Okada

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Exporting to an MS Word file

Do you want to edit a Jupyter Notebook file in MS Word? This is what you can do.

First, you need to install Pandoc. Download the latest installer for macOS or follow the instruction for Windows. Check if it is installed properly by `pandoc --version`.



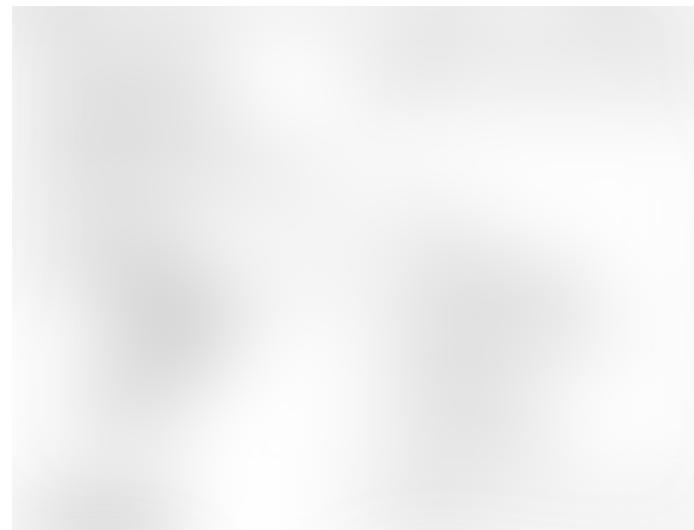
Next, you need to install the `jupyter-docx-bundler` from your terminal.

```
$ pip install jupyter-docx-bundler  
$ jupyter bundleextension enable --py jupyter_docx_bundler --sys-prefix
```

Removing input or code cells

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How to find cell tags



Hiding a code cell

You can remove an entire cell by adding `nbconvert-remove-cell`.

In your terminal run:

```
jupyter nbconvert --execute --to=docx <source notebook>.ipynb --  
output <target document>.docx
```



Running nbconvert to convert a ipynb to a docx file

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References

- <https://markdown-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/basics.html#markdown-basics>
- <https://github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/wiki/Markdown-Cheatsheet>
- <https://www.markdownguide.org/extended-syntax/>
- https://qiita.com/koikoi_jam/items/29d9ef4e16a42038325c
- <https://github.com/dunovank/jupyter-themes#monospace-fonts-code-cells>
- https://www.overleaf.com/learn/latex/Integrals,_sums_and_limits

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