Downloading Visual Studio Code

ECOSTRESS Tutorials

This tutorial will show you how to download Visual Studio Code and set up a Jupyter Notebook on MacOS.

Table of Contents

[What is Visual Studio Code? What is a Jupyter Notebook? 1](#_Toc171338808)

[How to Download Visual Studio Code 1](#_Toc171338809)

# What is Visual Studio Code? What is a Jupyter Notebook?

Visual Studio Code is a free software that is used to write and edit code. We will use visual studio code to write Python code in a Jupyter Notebook. A Jupyter Notebook is a tool that allows you to write code and view outputs in a single document, allowing for an interactive coding process.

## How to Download Visual Studio Code

1. Start by going to <https://code.visualstudio.com/> or by searching the web for **Visual Studio Code**. Once you get to the site, click the blue **download** button.

**Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated**

1. In your **downloads folder** you will find a zipped visual studio code file. **Double click** on the file to unzip it.

A picture containing text, electronics

Description automatically generated

1. A new icon will appear of the Visual Studio Code logo. **Double click** to open the application.

Text

Description automatically generated

1. Once the application is open, let’s install some extensions to allow us to use Python and Jupyter notebooks in Visual Studio Code. On the left side of the application, look for the **extensions** icon and **click** on it.

Icon

Description automatically generated

1. A new **panel** should open prompting you to search for extensions.

A screenshot of a phone

Description automatically generated with low confidence

1. In the search bar, type **Python**. Once you have found the extension, click the blue **install** button. It should say “installing” for a moment, and then it will be installed.

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

**Tip**: If you do not have Python installed on your computer, follow the **Installing Python** tutorial to get it set up.

1. Now, let’s do the same thing to install the Jupyter extension. In the search bar type **Jupyter**, find the extension, and click the blue **install** button.

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

1. Now that everything is installed, we can start a new Jupyter Notebook. If you already have a folder on your computer with data, you can get connected to it by selecting **File > Open Folder…** which will open a finder window where you can navigate to your project folder and select **Open**.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

1. You will know it opened successfully if the **Explorer** tab now displays the folder name and the files in it.

Text

Description automatically generated

1. Now that your folder is open, let’s create a Jupiter Notebook file. Hover over the name of your folder and some icons will appear next to it. Select the **New File** icon.

Text

Description automatically generated

1. Once selected, a new blank text entry box should appear under your folder name. Type in the name of your new file and make sure to give it the extention **.ipynb**. This will ensure that your new file is a Jupyter Notebook.

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

1. Hit enter and your new Jupyter Notebook will be created. In the main panel, your new Jupyter Notebook should end up looking like this:

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

1. Finally, we need to set the **Python interpreter** and **Kernel** to the correct environment. Start by pressing **Cmd+Shift+P** to open the Command Palette. Type **Python: Select Interpreter** and click on it.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

1. A new list will appear with your **interpreter options**. You can select whatever environment you would like, but I am going to select the one I set up to work on this data which I called **ECOSTRESS**.

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

**Tip**: If you do not have an environment set up on your computer, or do not know what an environment is, follow the **Creating an Environment** tutorial to get it set up.

Now your Visual Studio Code is set up for writing Python code for ECOSTRESS data!