

INTRODUCTION TO NOTEBOOKS AND JUPYTER

GOOD PRACTICES AND COMPUTATIONAL REPRODUCIBILITY

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PART 1

Introduction

1.1 The concept of literate programming

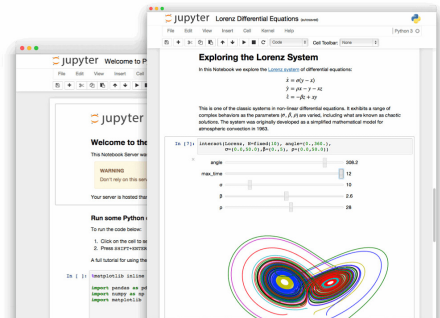
Donald Knuth

Literate programming: Instead of imagining that our main task is to instruct a computer what to do, let us concentrate rather on explaining to human beings what we want a computer to do.



A single place where live happily together:

- code
- documentation
- reasoning
- visualizations



1.2 Notebooks

Many flavors of notebooks

Many technologies have been developed in this direction:

- Jupyter: <https://jupyter.org/>
- R Markdown: <https://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/>
- Apache zeppelin: <https://zeppelin.apache.org/>
- Google Colaboratory: <https://colab.research.google.com>
- Observable (client-side): <https://observablehq.com/>
- Spark notebooks: <http://spark-notebook.io/>
- Beaker (engulfed by Jupyter)
- ...

1.2 Notebooks

Caveats

Notebooks downsides:

- Can be cumbersome (cell order execution...), not necessarily good as first entry point in Programming
- Beware of bad coding practices (no proper module/library design)
- Difficult for source control
- Testability

But these issues are currently addressed !



1.3 Jupyter

Why choosing Jupyter ?

- More than 40 languages supported
- Extensibility
- Community
- Recognized and pretty formatted by GitLab and GitHub



1.3 Jupyter

The main idea of Jupyter

An open-source web application to interactively represent a single json file containing:

- code
- documentation
- reasoning
- visualizations (simple and interactive)

Features overview:

- Easy sharing
- Multitude of export: interactive notebook, voilà dashboard, html blog, presentation, or simple script.
- the future of scientific article publication (at least in programming related fields)

1.3 Jupyter

Many IDE flavors for Jupyter notebooks

- Jupyter notebook (+ extensions)
- Jupyter lab (+ extensions)
- nteract
- Your own editor (visual studio code / pycharm / jupyter / Emacs modes ...)

JupyterLab is the main IDE for Jupyter now but:

- Extensions do not necessarily work for both Jupyter notebook and lab
- Nice features in nteract but cannot use previous extensions



PART 2

Setup

2.1 Installation

Documentation: <https://jupyter.org/install>

Locally, Using conda (recommended on jupyter website):

```
conda env create -n jupyter jupyterlab
```

If necessary extension can be installed from the JupyterLab interface.

On maestro:

See <https://confluence.pasteur.fr/display/FAQA/How+to+use+Jupyter-Notebook+on+the+cluster>

2.2 Exporting / Sharing

Nbconvert

Jupyter files can be converted in many formats using *nbconvert*:

- HTML
- Reveal JS slides
- LaTeX
- PDF
- Markdown (md)
- ReStructured Text (rst)
- executable script

2.2 Exporting / Sharing

Helpful services

A lot of services are provided to ease notebooks sharing:

- JupyterHub: <https://jupyter.org/hub>
- Binder: <https://gke.mybinder.org/>
- Voilà app: <https://voila.readthedocs.io/en/stable/using.html>
- Github/Gitlab formatting.
- Usefull extensions e.g. JupyterText:
<https://jupytertext.readthedocs.io/en/latest/install.html>



PART 3

Demonstration

Overview

- Mixing Code and markdown
- Visualizations
- Interactivity
- Virtual environment support: conda environments
- Presentations (Reveal.js and Rise)