

# 1c. VS Code (OPTIONAL)

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## FEATURES AND KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

We present a few keyboard shortcuts and handy features for [VS Code](#). They also apply to its privacy-focused alternative [VS Codium](#). Remarkably, these features are largely language-agnostic, holding regardless of the programming language you're working with.

For visual illustration, the features discussed are accompanied by GIFs. To view these GIFs, simply click "Example", or alternatively press `Alt+↑` or `Alt+↓` to open and close all of them simultaneously.

### **TO RUN A SCRIPT**

Select the script to be executed and press `Ctrl+Enter`

- ▶ Example

### **TO FORMAT EXPRESSIONS AND MAKE THEM MORE LEGIBLE**

Select the script to be formatted and press `Ctrl+k` + `Ctrl+f`. Sometimes, activating this tool requires running it twice.

- ▶ Example

### **TO ALIGN EQUAL SIGNS**

This feature requires the VS Code Extension "Better Align". It aligns consecutive lines by using the equal sign and other symbols as a reference. It's implemented by pressing `Alt` + `a`.

- ▶ Example

See also the extension "Cursor Align", which aligns code by clicking the position on each line.

### **TO EXTEND THE CURSOR VERTICALLY**

Hold down `Alt+Ctrl` + press `↑` or `↓`

- ▶ Example

### **TO SEE THE DOCUMENTATION OF A FUNCTION**

It requires hovering over the function.

- ▶ Example

Alternatively, you can go to the REPL, press `?`, and then type the function's name you want to search for.

- ▶ Example

### **TO AUTOCOMPLETE A WORD**

Start typing a word + press `Tab` when you see the option list.

- Example

## **TO INTRODUCE UNICODE CHARACTERS (TAB COMPLETION)**

Type a unicode character/command, press `Ctrl` + `Space` to open an option list, and then choose the option and press `Tab`.

- Example

In Julia, Greek letters and math have the same syntax as Latex. To add them, you need to start with `\` (e.g., `\eq` for `=`) and use Tab completion.

## **TO SELECT THE SAME WORD MULTIPLE TIMES**

Select the word and then press `Ctrl+d` for selecting each additional time it appears. This is useful when you want to change part of the expression.

- Example

## **TO HIDE PART OF THE SCRIPT**

Given a code block, add `#region` at the beginning and `#endregion` at the end.

- Example

When you have several lines indented, VS Code allows you to hide the block automatically. The following example shows this for a function.

- Example

## **TO TURN MULTIPLE LINES INTO A COMMENT**

Select all the lines you want to interpret as a comment rather than code. Then, press `Ctrl` + `/`.

- Example