



# Jupyter for Teaching

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September 11, 2025

# Big picture



I almost called this talk "Literate Programming for Teaching," because that's the paradigm.

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I almost called this talk "Literate Programming for Teaching," because that's the paradigm.

Jupyter is just the technology.

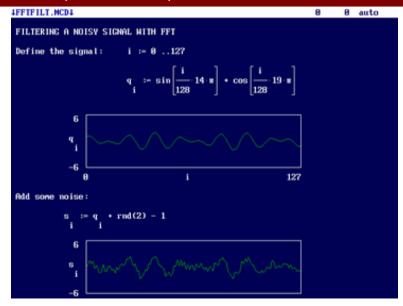
### Behold, the "Tioga" code-editing environment from 1982!



X11Viewers Cmd Open New /tilde/bier/tiogafiles/gargoyle13/GGCirclesImpl.mesa /tilde/bier/tiogafiles/ % [Split] Clear Reset Get GetImpl PrevFile Stere Save Time Split Places Levels © A Find Word Def Position Normalize PrevPlace Reselect StyleKind STOP! Find Solit Created Viewer: /R/TiogaDoc.tioga FirstLevelOnly MoreLevels FewerLevels AllLevels % findr preview preview \* -> /Cedar 13.0/Commands/PreView.command!1 CircleMeetsCircle: PUBLIC PROC. [circle], circle2: Circle] BETURNS [noints: ARRAY [1,2] or Point. hitCount: [622], tangent: soot + FALSE] = {
oiToO2, oiToO2Hat: Vector; March 25, 1992 12:09:00 pm PST /Cedar 13.0/Top/PreView.df16 May 5, 1997 3:00:09 nm PDT epsilon: REAL GGUtility.epsilonInFoints; /Cedar 13.0/PreView/PreView.icons!1 magO1ToO2, outerTangent, innerTangent; REAL: September 6, 1985 4:59:14 pm PDT IF RatherClose[circle1.origin, circle2.origin] THEN ( -- concentric circles /Cedar13.0/PreView/PreView.tip!1 January 23, 1989 11:04:18 am PST points[1] + points[2] + [0.0, 0.0]; -- avoids commiler warnings /usr/ccs/bin/ld -G -o /tmp/ImagerPixelArrayAISImpl-4206F692.so /project/cedar13.0/versions/ais/sunos5/imagerpixelarravaisimpl.o.~9~ => 0 o1ToO2 + Vectors2d.Subfcircle2.origin, circle1.origin1; /usr/ccs/hin/ld =G =o /tmn/AISIOImpl=41E958F0.so magO1ToO2 + Vectors2d Magnitude[o1ToO2]; /project/cedar13.0/versions/ais/sunos5/aisioimpl.o.~9~ => 0 outerTangent + circle1.radius + circle2.radius; /usr/ccs/bin/ld -G -o /tmp/AISStubsImpl-41E958F0.so innerTangent + Apsfcircle1.radius - circle2.radius1: /project/cedar13.0/versions/ais/sunos5/aisstubsimpl.o.~6~ => 0 /usr/ccs/bin/ld -G -o /tmn/PPreViewImpl-42070138.so /project/cedar13.0/versions/preview/sunos5/ppreviewimpl.o.~10~ => 0 /usr/ccs/bin/ld -G -o /tmp/PPreViewTool-4207013B.so /nroject/cedar13.0/wersions/nrewiew/sunos/nnrewiewtool.o.~11~ => 0 Unable to parse command line % preview TGMLSiggraph93Submitted.ip /tilde/hier/tiogafiles/ % [Snlit] STOP! Find Split March 25, 1992 12:09:00 pm PST /Cedar13.0/Top/PreView.df16 SELECT magO1ToO2 FROM May 5, 1997 3:00:09 pm PDT > outerTangent+ensilon => hitCount + 0: == circles for anger /Cedar 13.0/PreView/PreView.icons!1 in [outerTangent-ensilon ... outerTangent-ensilon] => ( -- circles just touch as shown September 6, 1985 4:59:14 pm PDT hitCount + 1; /Cedar13.0/PreView/PreView.tip!1 tangent + TRUE; January 23, 1989 11:04:18 am PST o1ToO2Hat + Vectors2d.Scale[o1ToO2, 1.0/magO1ToO2]; points[1] + Vectors2d.Add[circle1.origin, Vectors2d.Scale[o1ToO2Hat, circle1.radius]]; /usr/ccs/bin/ld -G -o /tmp/ImagerPixelArrayAISImpl-4286F692.so /project/cedar13.0/versions/ais/sunos5/imagerpixelarrayaisimpl.o.~9~ => 0 IN (innerTangent+epsilon .. outerTangent-epsilon) => { /usr/ccs/bin/ld -G -o /tmn/AISIOImnl-41E958F0.so The two circles overlap. We expect two roots. In the picture below, point C is one of the circle /project/cedar13.0/versions/ais/sunos5/aisioimpl.o.~9~ w> 0 intersection points. Seement AR is the seement 0102 in the picture above. We wish to find the /usr/ccs/bin/ld -G -o /tmp/AISStubsImpl-41E958F0.so mensection points. Segment AB is all segment to the many protection of the triangle, b = r1 and s = r1. From Heron's formula for the area of a triangle, area /project/cedar13.0/versions/ais/supos5/aisstuhsimplo.~6~ => 0 K = sart(s(s-s)/s-b)/s-c)), where s = (s+b+c)/2. We also know that the area K = 0.5ch. So h = 0.5ch. /usr/ccs/bin/ld -G -o /tmn/PPreViewImpl-42070138.so 3K/c. This gives us the v coordinate of the intersection points. The v coordinate is the point /project/cedar13.0/versions/preview/sunos5/ppreviewimpl.o.~10~ => 0 where the attitude hits the base, which we set from the Pythasorean Theorem. /usr/ccs/bin/ld -G -o /tmp/PPreViewTool-4207013B.so /project/cedar13.0/versions/preview/sunos5/ppreviewtool.o.~11~ => 0 Unable to parse command line % preview TGMLSiggraph93Submitted.ip tiogafiles/ Gargoule TiogaDoc

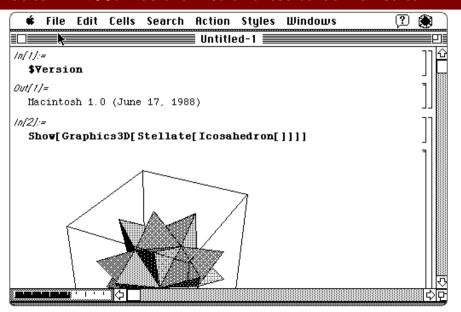
### Or "MathCad" for personal computers in 1986





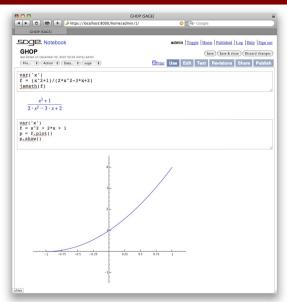
#### "Mathematica" in 1987 was the first of these to be mainstream





### Jupyter wasn't even the first to use web browsers and Python

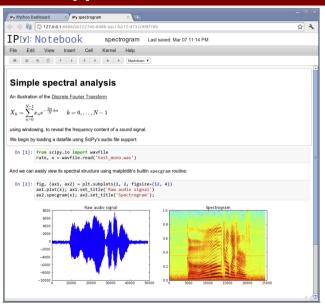




This is "SAGE" in 2007.

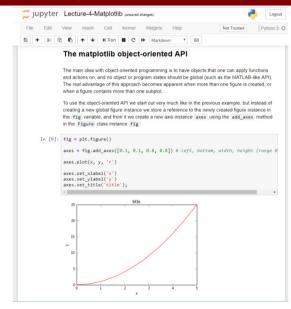
### Jupyter started life as "IP[y]: Notebook" in 2012





### But changed its name in 2015 to say it's for Julia, Python, and R

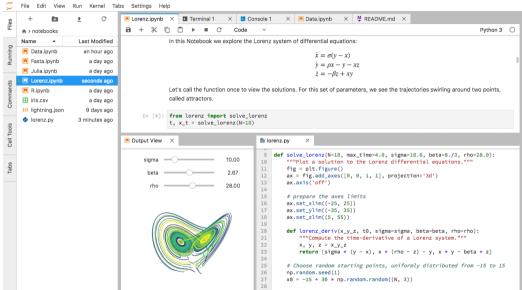




(But now Julia programmers more often use Pluto.jl and R programmers often use RStudio.)

### Rewritten as a complete, Tioga-like environment in 2018: JupyterLab 🐨





# Notebooks are the middle of three fundamental types of code editors



#### Batch



#### Notebook



#### **Terminal**



•

Permanent

**Ephemeral** 



```
emacs /tmp/script-file.py

◀ ▶ script-file.py

#!/usr/bin/env python
if __name__ == "__main__":
    for i in range(10):
        print(i)
U:--- script-file.pv All (6.0)
                                         (Python ws)
Wrote /tmp/script-file.pv
```

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- Conceit: you're a sculptor, carving a beautiful ediface that will stand the test of time.



```
nackaged by conda-forge | (default, May 11 2021, 07:01:05)
"help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
```

▶ Also has a long history in interactive languages like LISP, SPEAKEASY, and BASIC, as well as filesystem shells like UNIX and VAX.



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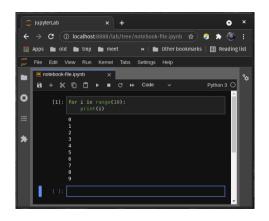
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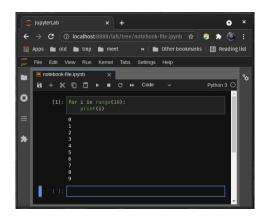
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- Conceit: you're a hack3r, mashing out commands at a breakneck pace.





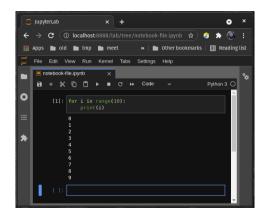
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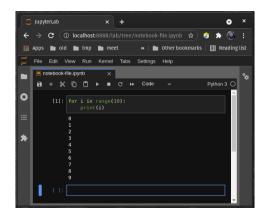
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- Conceit: Literate Programming!

### Literate Programming



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Instead of writing code containing documentation, the literate programmer writes documentation containing code.

— Ross Williams, 1987

# Example: the LIGO black hole discovery



https://github.com/minrk/ligo-binder/
blob/master/index.ipynb



Is it a good book?



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Maybe, for an advanced student who's willing to put in effort.



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Is it a good lecture presentation? No!

1. Font is too small; enlarging it would push too much off the screen.



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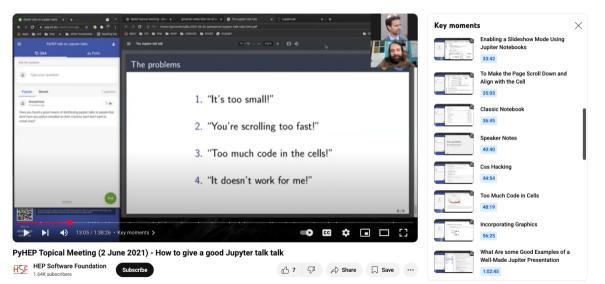
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- 4. Students can't start until they install the software and data files.

# "How to give a good Jupyter talk talk" on YouTube





# All of the solutions I'll be presenting address these four problems



1. "It's too small!"

2. "You're scrolling too fast!"

3. "Too much code in the cells!"

4. "It doesn't work for me!"

### All of the solutions I'll be presenting address these four problems



- 1. "It's too small!"
  - browser magnification
  - CSS hacks
- 2. "You're scrolling too fast!"
  - slide presentations: jupyterlab-deck
  - hiding hints and solutions
- 3. "Too much code in the cells!"
  - self-restraint?
  - mini-libraries
- 4. "It doesn't work for me!"
  - Docker
  - Binder
  - Codespaces
  - JupyterLite

The students watch pre-evaluated slides.

The students watch you evaluate the cells.

The students press "shift-enter" along with you.

You stop now and then to ask, "what if I do this instead?"

You include formal exercises in the talk (short or long).



# Next stop: the Dockerfile