

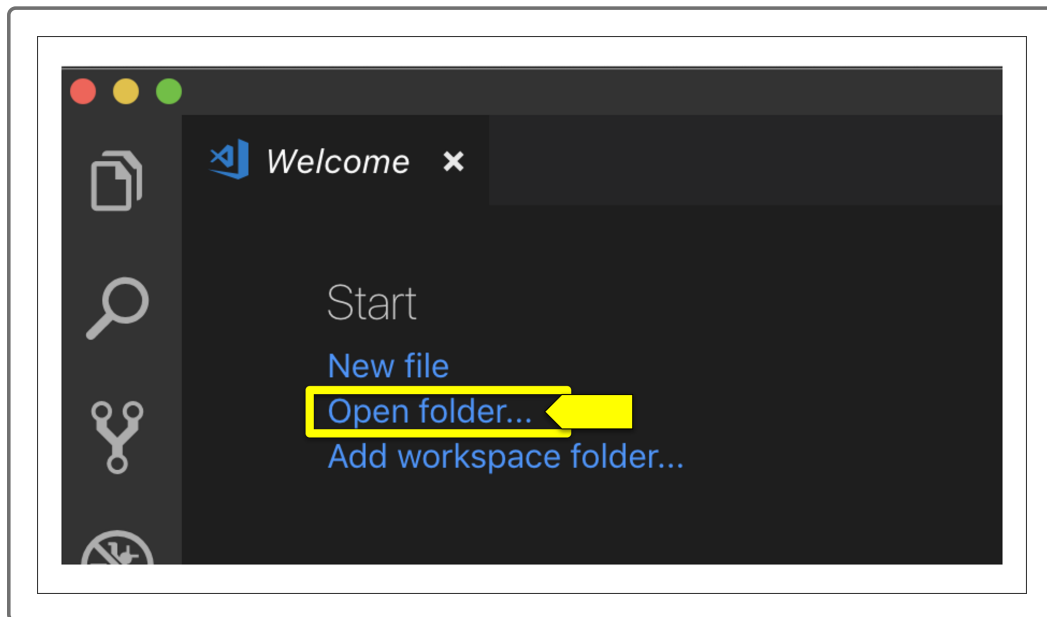
## 3.2.1 Create a Python File

**Now** that you have downloaded VS Code, Tom will walk you through a short tutorial on how to create and run Python files using VS Code. Using a text editor like VS Code is important because the Python scripts you will write for your analysis will be long and need to be edited often, but overall it will speed up your progress.

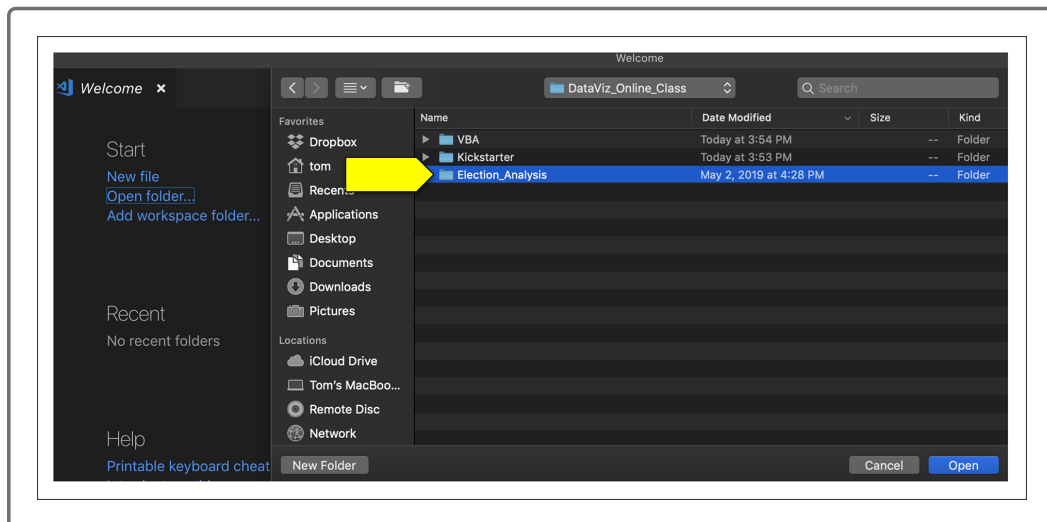
A big advantage of VS Code over the Python interpreter is that VS Code will let you know if you have syntax errors or misspellings. And, when we create longer scripts it can help with bracket-matching and code indentation, terms that we will go over in this module.

Let's get started with some basics of VS Code. First, we will walk through how to create a Python file.

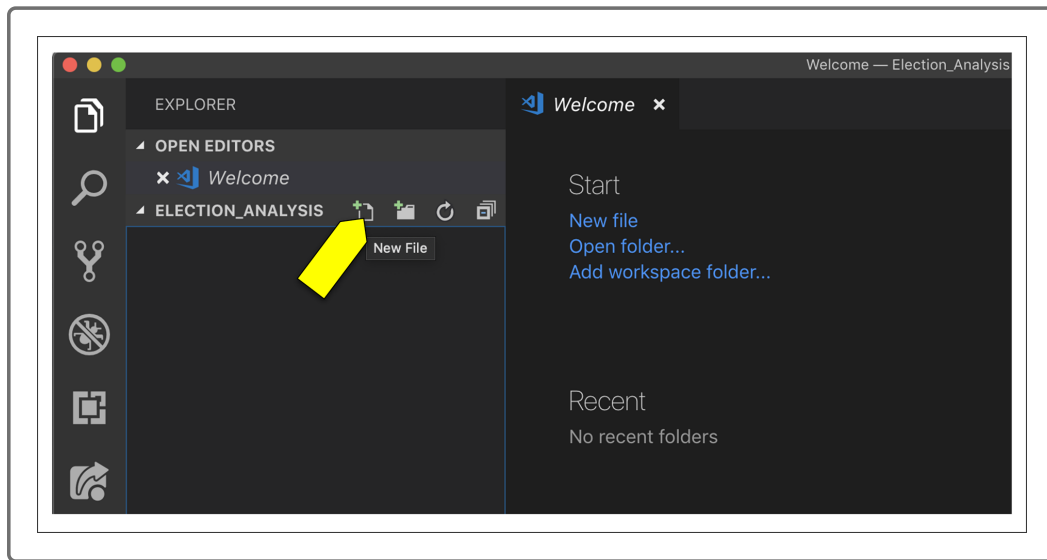
1. Launch VS Code.
2. On the Start page, click "Open folder..."



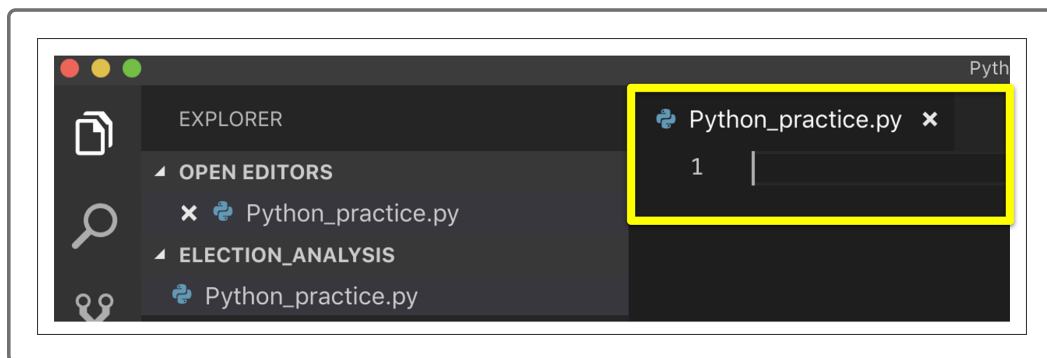
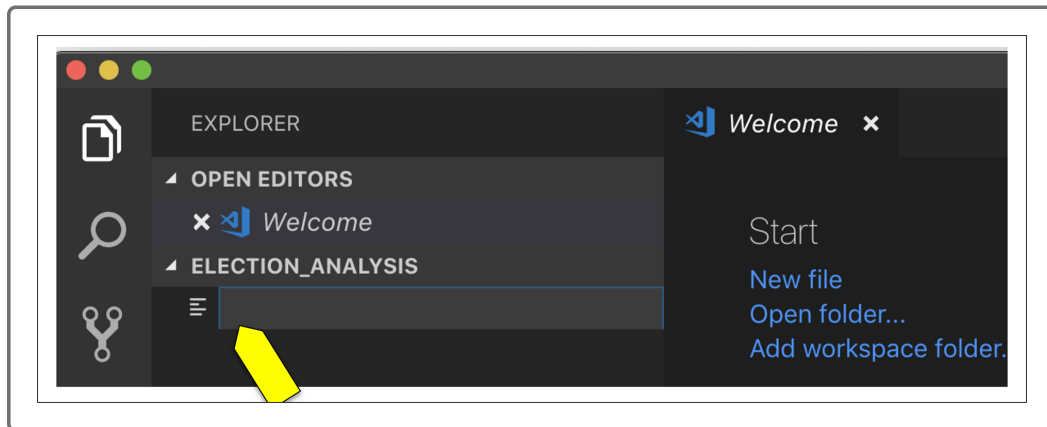
3. Navigate to the Election\_Analysis folder that you created for this project.



4. When the folder is open in VS Code, click the "New File" icon.



5. In the blank space for the filename, type "Python\_practice.py." Press Enter to save the file.



**IMPORTANT**

If you do not add the `.py` extension to the Python file, you will not be able to run the file.

#### NOTE

To get started using VS Code, see the [official guide](https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/introvideos/basics) (<https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/introvideos/basics>).

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