

# **Google Gemini in Colab**

MGMT 675: Generative AI for Finance

---

Kerry Back

## A Different Approach

### Code Environment + Chatbot

- ChatGPT and Claude: Chatbots with code execution added
- Google Colab: Code execution environment with chatbot added
- Colab started as Jupyter notebooks in the cloud (2017)
- Gemini was integrated into Colab later (2024)
- Philosophy: Write and run code first, use AI to assist

# What is Google Colab?

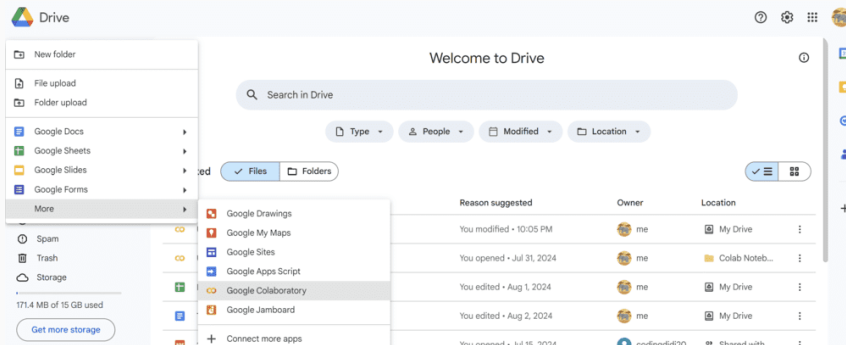
- A free tool from Google for running code in your browser
- No software installation required
- Works on any computer with internet access
- All your work saves automatically to Google Drive

# What You Need

- Just two things:
- A Google account (Gmail works)
- A web browser (Chrome recommended)
- That's it!

# Accessing Colab: From Google Drive

Click New → More → Google Colaboratory

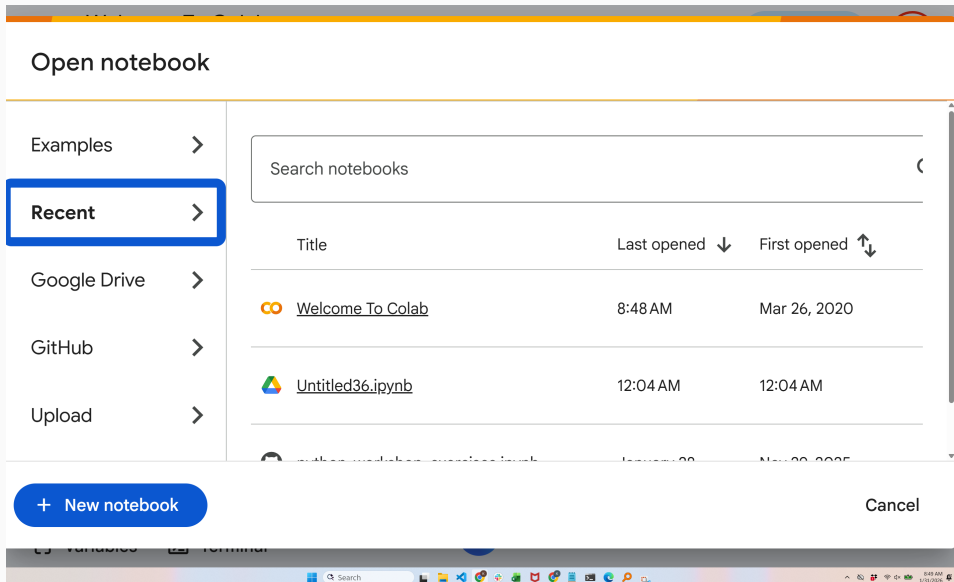


## Accessing Colab: Direct

Go directly to:

`colab.research.google.com`

# The Open Notebook Dialog



# Opening Notebooks

- Examples: Google's tutorial notebooks
- Recent: Your recently opened notebooks
- Google Drive: Notebooks saved in your Drive
- GitHub: Open notebooks from GitHub repos
- Upload: Upload a .ipynb file
- Click + New notebook to start a fresh notebook



# The Colab Interface: Notebook + Gemini

The screenshot displays the Google Colab interface. At the top, the logo is followed by the file name "Untitled37.ipynb" and a star icon. To the right are icons for chat, settings, and a "Share" button. Below this is a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "View", "Insert", "Runtime", "Tools", and "Help". A toolbar contains "Commands", "+ Code", "+ Text", "Run all", and "Connect". On the left is a sidebar with icons for file management and a Gemini AI icon. The main area features a code cell with a play button icon and the text "Start coding or generate with AI.", which is highlighted by a blue selection box. Below the code cell are three buttons: "How can I install Python libraries?", "Load data from Google Drive", and "Show an example of training a". At the bottom of the main area is a text input field with the placeholder "What can I help you build?", a plus icon, a dropdown menu set to "Gemini 2.5 Flash", and a play button. The bottom status bar includes "Variables", "Terminal", and a Gemini logo.

CO Untitled37.ipynb ☆

File Edit View Insert Runtime Tools Help

Q Commands + Code + Text | ▶ Run all Connect ^

[ ] ▶ Start coding or generate with AI.

How can I install Python libraries? Load data from Google Drive Show an example of training a

What can I help you build?

+ Gemini 2.5 Flash ▶

{ } Variables [ ] Terminal

# How Notebooks Work

- Three elements: notebook, notebook interface (Colab or other), and Python runtime environment
- A notebook (.ipynb file) is just a text file
- The interface renders the file to create what you see and handles communication with the runtime environment
  1. When you run a cell, the code is transmitted to a runtime environment (called a kernel).
  2. The runtime processes and executes your code.
  3. Results flow back to the notebook interface.
  4. The interface renders outputs, visualizations, and any error messages.

# Navigating a Notebook

- + Code: Add a new code cell
- + Text: Add a text/markdown cell
- Connect: Connect to Google's servers
- Files (folder icon): View and upload files

# What is a Cell?

- A cell is a box where you write code or text.
- Two types:
- Code cells: Run Python code
- Text cells: Write notes and explanations
- You can have as many cells as you need.

# Your First Code: Simple Math

Type  $5*3$  and press Shift + Enter → Result: 15



# Your First Code: Hello World

Type `print('hello world')` and press Shift + Enter



A screenshot of a Jupyter Notebook cell. The cell contains the code `print('hello world')`. The code is highlighted in blue. To the left of the code, there is a green checkmark and the text "[2] 0s". To the right of the code, there is a toolbar with icons for undo, redo, insert, delete, and a menu. Below the code, the output of the cell is displayed: "hello world".

```
[2] ✓ 0s print('hello world')
```

... hello world

## Running Code: Three Ways

- Click the play button (>) on the left of the cell
- Press Shift + Enter (runs and moves to next cell)
- Press Ctrl + Enter (runs and stays in cell)
- Tip: Shift + Enter is the most common method

## Understanding the Play Button

- Before running:
- Circle with play icon ( $\triangleright$ ) - Cell is ready
- While running:
- Spinning circle - Code is executing
- After running:
- Checkmark - Output appears below



- Notice the [1] or [2] next to cells?
- Shows the order cells were run
- Empty [ ] means not yet run
- \* means currently running
- Important: Can run cells in any order but top to bottom avoids confusion.

## Adding New Cells

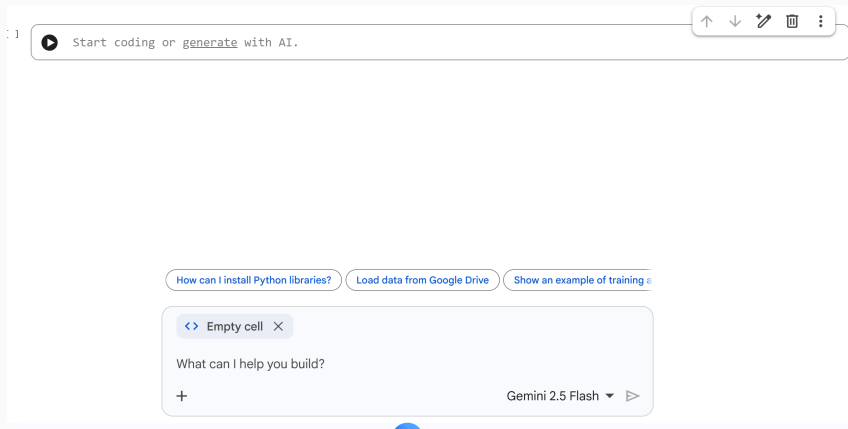
- From the toolbar:
- Click + Code for a code cell
- Click + Text for a text cell
- Using keyboard:
- Ctrl + M, B → Add cell below
- Ctrl + M, A → Add cell above

## Deleting and Moving Cells

- To delete a cell:
- Click the trash icon in the cell toolbar
- Or: Ctrl + M, D
- To move a cell:
- Click the up/down arrows in the cell toolbar
- Or drag and drop the cell

# Meet Gemini: Your AI Assistant

Gemini is built into Colab to help you write code



# What Gemini Can Do

- Generate code from plain English descriptions
- Explain what existing code does
- Fix errors in your code
- Suggest improvements
- Answer Python questions

## Runtime: What Powers Your Code

- When you click Connect, Colab gives you a virtual computer:
- CPU (standard processing)
- RAM (memory)
- Disk space
- And optionally: GPU or TPU for machine learning

## Restarting the Runtime

If your code isn't working as expected:

Runtime → Restart runtime

This clears all variables and starts fresh.

Note: You'll need to re-run your cells after restarting

## Session Limits

- Sessions disconnect after  $\sim 90$  minutes idle
- Maximum  $\sim 12$  hours continuous use
- Limited GPU/TPU hours per week



1. Ask Gemini to get stock price data from Yahoo Finance and compute daily returns.
2. Ask Gemini to generate a boxplot of the daily returns.
3. Ask Gemini how you can save the boxplot.
4. Ask Gemini how you can save the return data.
5. Ask Gemini how you can save the notebook

## Exercise: Computing Returns

- Download the Excel file containing NOV price and dividend history
- Compute daily returns including dividends
- Calculate annualized mean return and volatility

[Download returns.xlsx](#)

## Exercise: Estimating Betas

- Download the Excel file containing stock and market returns
- Estimate betas for each stock using regression
- Interpret the results

[Download betas.xlsx](#)

## Exercise: Mean-Variance Analysis

- Download the Excel file with expected returns and covariance matrix
- Find the tangency portfolio
- Plot the efficient frontier

[Download meanvariance.xlsx](#)