Downloading and Installing QGIS

1. Go to the QGIS download page:

2. For Windows:
   a. The recommended download is the QGIS Standalone Installer Version 2.12 (32 bit or 64 bit depending on your computer)
   b. To check this go to “Computer”---“System Properties” to see if the system type is 32 or 64.
   c. Once the .exe file downloads, double click on it, and run the QGIS setup wizard
      i. Click Next for all the default properties, and you can select the sample datasets if you would like, but it is not necessary.
      ii. QGIS will then be saved in your Program Files and an icon should appear on your desktop when it has finished installing.
      iii. You can then double click on the QGIS icon and it should open up to a window that looks similar to this:
3. For Mac:
   a. Click on the external page labeled “KyngChaos QGIS download page” that looks like this:
   
   ![QGIS download page](image)
   
   b. Here you will see that multiple accessory packages need to be downloaded in order to get QGIS running properly.
   c. It is important to download these in order!
   d. First download “GDAL Complete 1.11 framework package” and double click on the installer called “GDAL_Complete.pkg”. This will run an installer setup. Just click on all the defaults until it is installed.
      i. Next, install the “NumPy.pkg” that comes in the GDAL Complete 1.11 framework package
   e. Next, click on the “Matplotlib Python module” link just below the “GDAL Complete 1.11 framework package” link.
      i. This will take you to a page with multiple other Python Modules listed. You only need to download the Matplotlib module, The others are optional but recommended. These include:
         1. NumPy (which should already be downloaded)
         2. SciPy
         3. PIL
         4. Matplotlib
         5. Psycopg2
         6. RPy2
         7. PySAL
   f. Finally, click on the link for “QGIS 2.12.1-1 [181.6MiB] to download QGIS.
      i. Save the file to the disk and once it has downloaded, click on the installer to go through the setup wizard.
ii. Note that on the initial page of the installer it mentions that “GDAL Complete 1.11 framework package, and the Matplotlib and NumPy python modules are required”.

iii. Once the installer is complete, QGIS should be saved in your “Applications” folder. Then click on the QGIS icon to open.

**Installing Plugins**

A nice feature about QGIS is the ability for users to create plugins for specific tasks. These are also optional, but it is encouraged to explore these a bit.

1. Open QGIS by double clicking on the “QGIS Desktop” icon or from your “Applications” folder.
2. Click on the Plugins menu at the top of the main QGIS window.
   a. Navigate to “Manage and Install Plugins”
   b. Once this window opens up you will see all the plugins with an icon next to it indicating if it has been installed, not installed, if it is upgradeable or new.
3. These are some useful Plugins. The OpenLayers Plugin will be used during our week 1 exercise.
   a. OpenLayers
   b. Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin
   c. Value Tool
   d. Time Manager