

## DAVE – download and install

The DAVE software suite is available for download at <https://www.ncnr.nist.gov/dave/download.html>

Please browse and download the **Latest Development** version for your platform (Windows, Linux or MacOS). Brief instructions for installing DAVE and summarized below for all 3 platforms.

### Windows

Download the appropriate zip bundle. You must unzip the downloaded file into a temporary directory. Then you may proceed in one of two ways. You can either execute the application from the downloaded folder or you can perform a local installation like any Windows programs.

- **Local install.**  
Navigate into the "dave" directory that is created after unzipping. Execute "Setup.exe" and follow the instructions presented to install DAVE. After installation an entry would be created in your start menu (as indicated during installation) from which you can launch DAVE. A desktop shortcut is also created. Administrator privileges may be required to install an application.
- **Execute without local installation**  
If you wish to proceed in this fashion then after unzipping (make sure to explicitly extract the contents), navigate below the created "dave" folder and double click on "dave.vbs" to launch the application.

### MacOS

**Note:** X11 must be installed and running for DAVE to work. X11 for MacOS X can be obtained from the [XQuartz project](https://www.xquartz.org/) (<https://www.xquartz.org/>) site. Download and install the version available before proceeding with the next steps.

- Download the stable version from the link above
- BTW, if the bundle is quarantined during the download process, then you will need to fix that before proceeding. Run the following from the command line on a terminal:

```
xattr -r -d com.apple.quarantine dave_dev_macos_2026-07-24.zip
```

where dave\_dev\_macos\_2026-07-24.zip is the downloaded bundle in this example.

- Double-click on the downloaded \*.zip bundle to extract its contents.
- An application bundle called dave (stable version) or daveCVS (development version) will be created. You can now delete the downloaded zip file.
- If you are unhappy with the location in which the extracted bundled is placed, use Finder to move the application bundle, dave or daveCVS, to any desired location (for example to the Applications folder). Note that if you do move the application bundle, you **must** use Finder! Also, **do not rename** the application bundle because it will not work any longer!

- Finally, double-click on the application bundle to launch DAVE. However, if you encounter errors when launching the application bundle then consider the alternatives below.

#### **Procedure to launch DAVE manually using Finder:**

- Using Finder, navigate to the uncompressed package/bundle.
- Control click on the DAVE package (called dave.app or daveCVS.app) and select the option to "Show Package Contents".
- Within the contents, there should be a (bash script) item called "dave". Double-click on it to launch DAVE.

#### **Procedure to launch DAVE manually from terminal (command line):**

- Using a terminal window, navigate to the uncompressed package/bundle.
- change directory (cd) into the DAVE package (called dave.app or daveCVS.app).
- execute "ls" to list the directory contents. There should be a bash script present named "dave"
- execute the bash script by typing "./dave" (without the quotes) to launch DAVE

## **Linux**

Download the appropriate version from the link above and extract the files (eg "tar xzvf downloaded\_file.tgz"). Then change directory to the "dave" directory and run "./dave" to launch DAVE. Please note that DAVE must be launched from the installation directory otherwise some program modules may not work properly. If you wish to avoid this then see Note 2 below.

**Note 1:** For some Linux distributions, users have reported a seg fault with newer versions of DAVE which has been traced to a missing libstdC++ library. This can be fixed by locating and installing the package for your distribution that provides libstdC++.so.6. This can be achieved by visiting [https://rpm.pbone.net/search\\_simple\\_2.html](https://rpm.pbone.net/search_simple_2.html) ; enter libstdc++.so.6 in the search field and select your Linux distribution; then search, download and install the appropriate package that is found.

**Note 2:** If you are experiencing any problems with fonts and/or plotting, then you need to modify the file called 'dave' and change the line:

```
topdir=`dirname $0`
```

so that the topdir variable points to the installation directory in which the 'dave' file is located. For example, if the downloaded DAVE archive was extracted into a directory called /home/path/to/dave, the line in the 'dave' file should be

```
topdir=/home/path/to/dave
```

This modification should also enable dave to be executed from anywhere (without changing directory to the installation directory first). Thus DAVE can be launched by issuing the command '/home/path/to/dave/dave' from anywhere.

In addition, executing the following soft link as root:

```
ln -s /home/path/to/dave/dave /usr/local/bin/dave
```

would give any user the ability to execute DAVE by simply typing dave on the command line irrespective of the current directory.

