# Data structuring

The Pandas way

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# Recap

What have we learned about visualizations?

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# Agenda

We will learn about Pandas data structures and procedures. Specifically we go through:

- Viewing and selecting data
- Missing data
- Series:
  - procedures and data types:
    - numerical; boolean; strings and temporal
- DataFrame:
  - loading and storing data
  - split-apply-combine (groupby)
  - joining datasets

A small exercise

Why we do structuring

#### **Motivation**

Why do we want to learn data structuring?

data scientists call "data wrangling," "data



## **Motivation (continued)**

• Data never comes in the form of our model. We need to 'wrangle' our data.

Can our machine learning models not do this for us?

• Not yet:). The current version needs tidy data. What is tidy?

Same as long - one row per observation.

# **Getting prepared**

In [1]: | import matplotlib.pyplot as plt import numpy as np import pandas as pd import seaborn as sns

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#### **Pandas Data Stuctures**

Why use Pandas?

- 1. simplicity Pandas is built with Python's simplicity
- 2. flexible and powerful tools for working with data
- 3. speed build on years of research about numeric computation
- 4. development breathtaking speed of new tools coming

How do we work with data in Pandas?

• We use two fundamental data stuctures: **DataFrame** and **Series**.

#### Pandas DataFrames

What is a DataFrame?

• A matrix with labelled columns and rows (which are called indices). Example:

- An object with many powerful methods.
- To note: In Python we can describe it as a list of lists of a dict of dicts.

### Pandas DataFrames (continued)

Pandas is built on top of <u>numpy (http://www.numpy.org/)</u> a Python framework similar to matlab.

Many functions from numpy can be applied directly to Pandas. We can convert a DataFrame to a numpy matrix with **values** method.

#### Pandas series

What is a Series?

• A vector/list with labels for each entry. Example:

What data structure does this remind us of?

A mix of Python list and dictionary (more info follows)

#### Series and DataFrames

How are Series related to DataFrames?

Every column is a series. Example: access as object method:

```
In [ ]: df.A
```

Another option is access as key:

```
In [ ]: df['B']
```

To note: The latter option more robust as variables named same as methods, e.g. count, cannot be accesed.

#### **Indices**

Why don't we just use matrices?

- labelled columns are easier to work with
- indices may contain fundamentally different data structures
  - e.g. time series, hierarchical groups

Using pandas Series

#### Generation

Let's revisit our series

#### Components in series

- index: label for each observation
- values: observation data
- dtype: the format of the series object allows any data type

# **Generation (continued)**

How do we set custom index? Example:

### **Generation (continued)**

The dictionary and series. Example:

```
In [14]: d = {'yesterday':0, 'today':1, 'tomorrow':3}
    ser_num_2 = pd.Series(d)
    ser_num_2

Out[14]: today    1
    tomorrow    3
    yesterday    0
    dtype: int64
```

How is the series different from a dict?

• The series has powerful methods:

```
In [15]: ser_num_2.median()
Out[15]: 1.0
```

### Converting data types

The data type of a series can be converted with the **astype** method:

### Missing data type

What fundamental data type might we be missing?

**Empty data** 

dtype: float64

```
In [ ]: None # python
np.nan #numpy/Pandas
```

Important methods: isnull, notnull, dropna. Example

```
In [ ]: ser_num_3 = pd.Series([1, np.nan, 2.4, None])
    ser_num_3
In [24]: ser_num_3.dropna()
Out[24]: 0 1.0
```

# Missing data type (continued)

Can we change the missing values?

Yes. One example is to uniformly assign a value with **fillna**:

```
In [26]: ser_num_3.fillna(3.14)
Out[26]: 0  1.00
    1  3.14
    2  2.40
    3  3.14
    dtype: float64
```

A more sophisticated way is forward-fill which is called **ffill**:

```
In [ ]: ser_num_3.ffill()
```

Other ways include interpolate, dropna and bfill which we do not cover.

### **Numeric operations**

How do we manipulate series?

Like Python data! An example:

Are other numeric python operators the same?

Yes /, //, -, \*, \*\*, +=, -= etc. behave as expected.

#### **Numeric** methods

Pandas series has powerful numeric methods. Have we seen one?

```
In [ ]: ser_num_2.median()
```

Other useful methods include: **mean**, **median**, **min**, **max**, **var**, **describe**, **quantile** and many more.

In [33]: ser\_num\_2.describe()

Out[33]:

	Α	В
count	2.000000	2.000000
mean	2.000000	3.000000
std	1.414214	1.414214
min	1.000000	2.000000
25%	1.500000	2.500000
50%	2.000000	3.000000
75%	2.500000	3.500000
max	3.000000	4.000000

### Numeric methods (continued)

An important method is value\_counts. This counts number for each observation.

#### Example:

```
In [34]: ser_vc = pd.Series([1,2,2,3])
    ser_vc.value_counts()

Out[34]: 2     2
     3      1
     1      1
     dtype: int64
```

What is observation in the value\_counts output - index or data?

#### Numeric methods (continued)

Are there other powerful numeric methods?

Yes: examples include

- unique, nunique: the unique elements and the count of unique elements
- cut, qcut: partition series into bins
- **diff**: difference every two consecutive observations
- cumsum: cumulative sum
- nlargest, nsmallest: the n largest elements
- idxmin, idxmax: index which is minimal/maximal
- corr: correlation matrix

Check <u>series documentation (https://pandas.pydata.org/pandas-docs/stable/generated/pandas.Series.html)</u> for more information.

# **Logical operators**

Does our standard logical operators work?

Yes: ==, !=, &, | work elementwise. Example:

What datatype is returned? What about the | operator?

# Logical operators (continued)

Check for multiple equal: isin. Example:

```
In [51]:
          ser num 2 *= 2
In [56]:
         rng = list(range(3))
In [63]:
          rng
          [0, 1, 2]
Out[63]:
In [62]:
          ser num 2
          today
                        2
Out[62]:
          tomorrow
          yesterday
          dtype: int64
In [60]:
          ser_num_2.isin(rng)
          today
                         True
Out[60]:
                        False
          tomorrow
          yesterday
                         True
          dtype: bool
```

### String operations

Which operators could work for string?

Operators +, +=. Example:

# String operations (continued)

The powerful .str has several powerful methods e.g. contains, capitalize. Example:

The .str method also has slicing - example:

### Temporal data type

Pandas Series has support for temporal data as well. Example:

What can it be used for

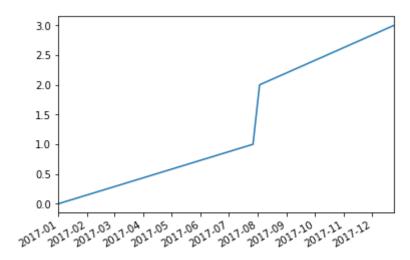
## Using temporal data

Why is temporal data powerful?

• conversion to time series; example:

```
In [81]: ser_time_2 = pd.Series(index=datetime_index, data=range(4))
    ser_time_2.plot()
```

Out[81]: <matplotlib.axes.\_subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x2850530dc18>



## Using temporal data (continued)

What other uses might be relevant?

Temporal has the .dt method and its sub-methods. Example:

The dt method has several other sub-methods including year, day, weekday, hour, second

*To note*: Your temporal data may need conversion - see other dt sub-methods: **tz\_localize** and **tz\_convert** for that

## Temporal data type (continued)

What happens if we convert to integers?

#### What is this?

- The underlying structure is epoch time.
- Epoch time measures seconds since Jan. 1, 1970, at 00:00:00 GMT time zone. Here the output is nanoseconds(ns).

### Viewing and editing data

The simplest way to view a series (and dataframe) is as follows:

```
In [96]:
         ser num 4 = pd.Series(np.random.normal(size=[100000]))
          ser num 4.tail(10) # prints first 30, last 30 observations
          99990
                  -0.906753
Out[96]:
          99991
                  -1.138565
          99992
                 0.125433
          99993
                0.583006
          99994
                  -0.127683
          99995
                 0.683099
          99996
                  -0.023049
          99997
                0.566708
          99998
                  0.215449
          99999
                  -1.509640
          dtype: float64
```

The **head** and **tail** respectively prints the first and last observations.

```
In [ ]: ser_num_4.tail(3) # prints first 3 observation,
```

## Viewing and editing data (continued)

The **loc** methods provide a powerful way of accessing subsets of a series through the index.

```
In [98]: my_dict = {'A':1,'B':2}
my_dict['B']

Out[98]: 2
In [97]: ser_num_2.loc['tomorrow']

Out[97]: 6
```

We can select multiple elements:

```
In [ ]: indices = ['today', 'tomorrow']
    ser_num_2.loc[indices]
```

The **iloc** method access a subset of a series using integers:

1004

0.613368

dtype: float64

# Viewing and editing data (continued)

This can be used to alter the values:

#### WARNING!#@

• Series indices are NOT unique

# Viewing and editing data (continued)

We can also use boolean series for selection:

dtype: float64

```
In [109]: selection = ser_num_3.notnull()
sub = ser_num_3[selection]
sub
Out[109]: 0 1.0
2 2 4
```

To note: could also have been performed with dropna.

### Series recap

- Most Python operations also work for Pandas!
- Series are also good for operating strings and boolean stuff
- Series has powerful methods for fast selection
- Two new datatypes:
  - Empty data (np.nan, None)
  - Temporal data (datetime)

#### More remains unexplored:

• the <u>category data datatype (https://pandas.pydata.org/pandas-docs/stable/categorical.html)</u> makes strings ultra fast and memory efficient

# **DataFrames**

#### A small exercise

While working with DataFrame we will work on a small exercise. The exercise consists:

- loading the data;
- data preprocessing;
- selecting a relevant sample;
- employ dataset to gain insights through computations and visualizations

DataFrame: loading and storing

# **Reading DataFrames**

Pandas can read CSV files very easily. Download the file in url:

```
In [26]: gh_raw = "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/"
    user = "abjer/"
    repo = "sds/"
    branch = "master/"
    file = "data/bechdel.csv"
    url = gh_raw + user + repo + branch + file
    url
```

# Reading DataFrames (continued)

Now let's try opening it:

• As local file:

```
In [20]: local_path = 'C:/Users/bvq720/sds/data/bechdel.csv'

df = pd.read_csv(local_path)
```

• As online file:

```
In [21]: df = pd.read_csv(url)
```

Contents:

```
In [ ]: df.head(2)
```

## Reading other data types

Other pandas readers include: excel, sql, sas, stata and many more.

*To note*: an incredibly fast and useful module for reading and writing data is <u>feather</u> (<u>https://github.com/wesm/feather</u>).

## Storing data

Data can be stored in a particular format with to\_(FORMAT) where (FORMAT) is the file type such as csv. Let's try with to\_csv:

```
In [ ]: df.to_csv('bechdel.csv', index=False)
```

Always!!! use index=False when exporting - otherwise the index will be exported too!

### Exercise - problem: input-output

Some data can be 'scraped' as is - they are already structured.

Q1) Use Pandas' CSV reader to fetch National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration(NOAA)'s daily data weather from 1864 for various stations - available <a href="https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/by\_year/1864.csv">here (https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/by\_year/readme.txt</a>). Description can be found <a href="https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/by\_year/readme.txt">here (https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/by\_year/readme.txt</a>).

- Note that for compressed files you need to specify the keyword compression.
- Note also that keyword header can be specified as the CSV has no column names.

### Exercise - solution: input-output

DataFrame: viewing and selecting

### Selecting rows in DataFrames

Are there similarities between how Series and DataFrame views data?

• Yes, very similar, few differences.

Which methods did the Series for inspection and do the work?

• loc, iloc, head and tail work as expected selecting rows. Example:

```
In [ ]: df_weather.iloc[:3]
```

# Selecting rows in DataFrames (continued)

What other methods do we have for selecting rows?

• Right: boolean series. These also work for DataFrames. Example:

```
In [ ]: df_weather[df_weather.obs_type=='PRCP'] # select rain data
```

## Selecting columns in DataFrames

Selecting columns is almost too easy:

```
In [ ]: df_sel = pd.DataFrame([[1,2,3], [4,5,6]], columns=['A', 'B', 'C'])
    print(df_sel[['B','A']]) # selecting A and B columns
```

Could there be another way?

• Yes: loc and iloc can also select columns. Examples:

```
In [ ]: print(df_sel.loc[[1],['A','B']])
In [ ]: print(df_sel.iloc[:,1:])
```

What does ':' do in iloc/loc?

### Exercise - problem: format and select

Q2) Structure your weather DataFrame by using only the relevant columns, rename them. Make sure observations are correctly formated (how many decimals should we add? one?).

Q3) Select data for the first station in the data (ITE00100550) and only observations for maximal temperature. Make a copy of the DF.

#### Exercise - solution: format and select

Q2) answer:

Q3 answer:

```
In [4]: select_stat = df_weather.station == 'ITE00100550' # boolean: first weather station
    select_tmax = df_weather.obs_type=='TMAX' # boolean: maximal temp.

df_select = df_weather[select_stat & select_tmax].copy() # row selection - require both
    conditions
```

# DataFrame: sorting and indexing

### **Setting indices**

We can set the index of a DataFrame using its method **set\_index**. Example:

```
In [ ]: df.set_index('A')
```

We can use the keyword inplace which will replace the DataFrame:

```
In [ ]: df.set_index('A', inplace=True)
df
```

### Removing indices

Sometimes we wish to remove the index. This is done with the **reset\_index** method:

```
In [ ]: df.reset_index()
```

By specifying the keyword drop=True we delete the columns. Note inplace also works.

To note: Indices can have multiple levels, in this case level can be specified to delete a specific level.

# Sorting

A DataFrame can be sorted with **sort\_values**; this method takes one or more columns to sort by.

To note: Sorting by index is possible with sort\_index.

# Exercise - problem: index

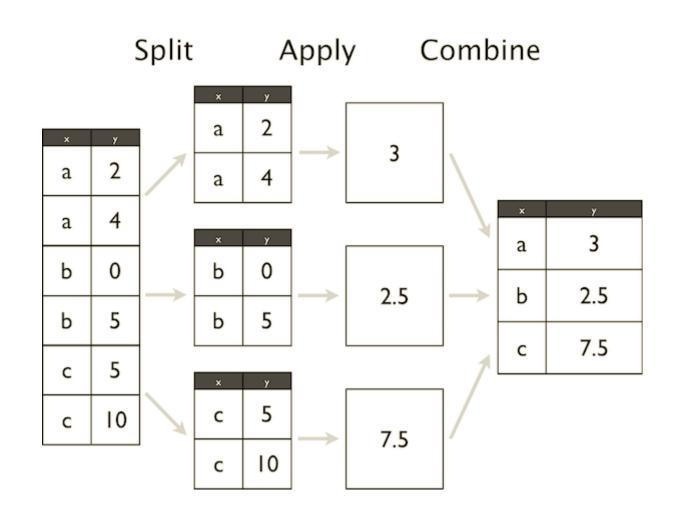
Q4) With your data for the first weather stations - set your datetime variable as temporal index and make a timeseries plot.

#### **Exercise - solution: index**

Q4) answer:

# Split-apply-combine

Example: grouping by x and calculating mean of y



### groupby

A powerful tool in DataFrames are the **groupby** method. Example:

```
In [ ]: df_select['week'] = df_select.datetime.dt.week
   gb_week = df_select.groupby('week')

tmax_mean_by_week = gb_week.obs_value.mean()

tmax_mean_by_week.head(4)
```

In [ ]: tmax\_mean\_by\_week.plot()

# groupby (2)

What does the groupby by method do?

• It splits the data.

Can other functions be applied?

• Yes: mean, std, min, max all work.

To note: Using .apply() method and inserting a custom function also works

# groupby (3)

Can we use multiple variables for grouping?

• Yes - example:

```
In [ ]: df_weather.groupby(['station', 'obs_type']).obs_value.mean().head(4)
```

Note grouping with multiple variables uses a <u>MultiIndex</u> (<a href="https://pandas.pydata.org/pandas-docs/stable/generated/pandas.MultiIndex.html">https://pandas.pydata.org/pandas-docs/stable/generated/pandas.MultiIndex.html</a>) which we do not cover.

# groupby (4)

Can we use groupby in a loop?

Yes, we can iterate over a groupby object. Example:

```
In [116]: results = {}
    for group, group_df in gb_week:
        group_mean = group_df.obs_value.mean()
        results[group] = group_mean
    results
```

### Exercise - problem: split-apply-combine

Q5) Plot the monthly max, min+quartiles temperature for our stations.

Hint: the method describe describe computes all these measures.

Q5) solution:

```
In [ ]: df_select['month'] = df_select.datetime.dt.month
    df_select.groupby('month').obs_value.describe().iloc[:,-5:].plot()
```

# Joining data

Until now we've worked with one DataFrame at a time.

We will now learn to put them together.

## **Concatenating DataFrames**

Let's try to vertically put two DataFrames together:

```
In [ ]: df_j1 = pd.DataFrame([[1,2],[3,4]], columns=['A', 'B'])
    print(df_j1)

In [ ]: df_j2 = pd.DataFrame([[5,6],[7,8]], columns=['A', 'B'])
    print(df_j2)

In [ ]: df_vert = pd.concat([df_j1, df_j2]) # stack vertically - default
    print(df_vert)
```

# **Concatenating DataFrames (continued)**

Let's do it horizontally:

```
In [ ]: df_j3 = pd.DataFrame([[5,6],[7,8]], columns=['C', 'D'])
print(pd.concat([df_j1, df_j3],axis=1)) # put together horizontally - axis=1
```

The **concat** method creates one big DataFrame from two smaller. It can be used when when we have two or more DataFrames that either share indices or columns.

### Merging DataFrames

We can merge DataFrames which share common identifiers, row by row. Example:

```
In [ ]: df_j4 = pd.DataFrame([[2,3],[7,8]], columns=['B', 'C'])
    print(pd.merge(df_j1, df_j4))
```

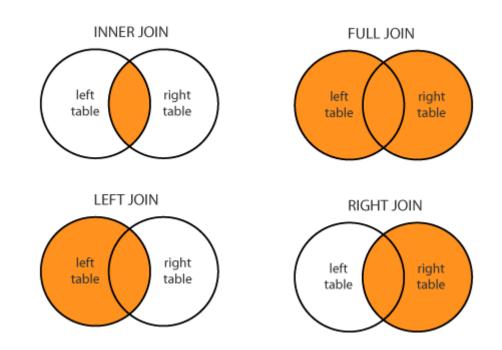
**merge** is useful for when you have two or more datasets about the same entities, e.g. data about individual where you merge by social security number.

```
In [4]: import pandas as pd
```

## Merging DataFrames (continued)

Merging can be either of four types.

- inner merge: observations exist in both dataframes [default]
- left (right) merge: observations exist in left (right) dataframe
- outer merge: observations exist either in left or in right dataframe



## Merging DataFrames (continued)

Let's try left and outer:

```
In [ ]: print(pd.merge(df_j1, df_j4, how='left'))
```

Exercise: try to describe in words what happens.

## Exercise - problem: data joining

- Q6) Make a function that downloads and formats the stations data.
- Q7) Using your function that makes a loop that fetch processed data for years 1864-1867. Concatenate this data vertically.
- Q8) Merge station locations onto weather data. Locations can be found at: <a href="https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/ghcnd-stations.txt">https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/ghcnd-stations.txt</a> (https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/ghcnd-stations.txt). Note that the location this has fixed width format does there exist a reader for that?

## Exercise - solution: data joining

Q6) answer:

```
In [ ]:
        prefix = 'https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/by year/'
         suffix = '.csv.gz'
        def fetch format weather(year):
             url = prefix + str(year) + suffix
             df weather = pd.read csv(url,
                                      compression='gzip', #decompress qzip
                                      header=None, #use no header information from the csv
                                      parse dates=[1]) # option for parsing dates
             df weather = df weather.iloc[:,:4] # select only first four columns
             column names = ['station', 'datetime', 'obs type', 'obs value']
             df weather.columns = column names # set column names
             df weather.obs value = df weather.obs value / 10 # convert last digit to decimal
             return df weather
```

## Exercise - solution: data joining (continued)

Q7) answer:

```
In [ ]: dfs = []
    for year in range(1864, 1868):
        dfs.append(fetch_format_weather(year))

df_concat = pd.concat(dfs, ignore_index=True)
```

Q8) answer:

```
In [ ]: url_stats = "https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/ghcnd-stations.txt"
    df_stats = pd.read_fwf(url_stats, header=None).iloc[:,:4]
    df_stats.columns = ['station', 'latitude', 'longitude', 'altitude']
    df_concat_coords = df_concat.merge(df_stats)
```

Wide and long format conversion

## To long format

A DataFrame can be collapsed into a Series with the **stack** command:

```
In [ ]: df_j1.stack()
```

Quiz: What happend to our observations? What happend to our columns?

• Observations are now vertically stacked and each row now has an extra index with column information.

### To wide format

Likewise we can transform a long DataFrame with the unstack

## Exercise - problem: tidy format

Q9) Is our weather dataset in tidy format? If not how can we transform it?

Hint: unstack'ing the observation type may help

Q10) With your tidy data set - convert the temperature variables to Fahrenheit. Conversion is F = 32 + 1.8 C where F is Fahrenheit and C is Celsius.

#### Q9) answer:

No our weather dataset is not in a tidy format. This can be achieved as follows:

Q10) answer:

# **Summary**

## DataFrame insights

- How to load and storing data, in particular with read\_csv
- Indices can be manipulated with **set\_index**, **reset\_index**
- Split-apply-combine is powerful and easy using **groupby** method
- Joining multiple datasets can be either with concat (which stacks dataframes)
   and merge
- We can go convert wide to long (and vice versa) with **stack** (**unstack**)

## Learning more

Many important topics for DataFrames have been skipped. These include:

- Copying data in python: deep vs. shallow copy method for dataframes
- Working with duplicates: **duplicated**, \*drop\_duplicates