



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

## Exercise Sessions - Introduction

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# How Can You Contact Me?

## Personal Contact

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- Please, write your name and the course you are attending in the email since I am teaching multiple, similar courses this semester.
- If the email is really urgent, make it obvious in the title (i.e., “IMPORTANT - ...”).
- I usually answer emails as soon as possible (mainly during the week).
- If I don't answer your email, send me another one or ask me after a lecture.
- If you have any question you'd like to ask me, I usually stay 10 minutes (**40** minutes, sometimes...) after each lecture.

# About Lectures

- If you have any question, raise your hand so I know I have to stop speaking as soon as possible to address your doubts.
- Don't be afraid of asking questions, I personally believe there are **very few** stupid questions...
- If there's something I am giving for granted that I shouldn't, please stop me!  
Two years ago, I taught an exercise session on a topic that prof. Brambilla hadn't explained yet. Students were staring at me pretty weirdly...
- Any constructive and well-mannered feedback about the way I teach and explain is very appreciated.

# Regarding Projects and Evaluations

- Please, follow the structure, methods, and tools we provide you so that we can properly and quickly evaluate your projects and exams.
- We will assign you all the requests and deadlines for the project near the end of the course. We will also give you a LaTeX template on [Overleaf](#) to structure project's deliverables.
- **Important** – Even though we would most likely allow you to make your own assumptions on the text and data, please, do not change the perspective of the project, i.e., if the text and data discuss about a specific thing, **do not** assume you can remove it because your assumptions make it no longer useful! **Shape your assumption to suit the text, not the other way around!**

# Regarding Projects and Evaluations

The project will be evaluated on **30** points + **3** extra points (awarded by the teacher) and then rescaled depending on its impact on the final score.

The aspects that will be evaluated are

- Structure of the Document – **5%** of the score
- Methods and Tools – **5%** of the score
- Coherence – **10%** of the score
- Clarity – **10%** of the score
- Content – **60%** of the score
- Presentation – **10%** of the score
- Extra – **10%** of the score

# How Can I Study for the Exam?

My personal advice would be

- Study the theory explained both by prof. Brambilla and I since it will be asked in the final exam.
- Regarding the practice, perform all the queries and exercises I will show you in the lectures, even if they are simple.
- **Important** – Do not focus only on memorising the commands required to perform queries. Instead, focus on understanding how the query shapes the data. Think on how the dataset would change after each operation in the query is performed.

# How Can I Study for the Exam?

If you need extra exercises to prepare for the exam

- When working on the project delivery, have each member of the group perform all the requests.
- **Extra** – download an open dataset from the web (e.g., from [Kaggle](#)), setup the type of database you want to train on, and import the data. Some database technologies also have predefined datasets to import. Find other students who want to exercise. Define a set of queries to perform and compare the results with your classmates and the data. Gradually increase the complexity of the queries until you feel like you're ready for the exam.

# How Can I Study for the Exam?

If you have any doubt about an exercise

- Send me an email. If possible, do it after you collected a few doubts so I won't have my mailbox completely filled by emails.
- If the question is relevant, I will share the doubts you raised with the whole class through WeBeep (anonymously).
- **Important** – I know that doubts mainly arise while preparing the exam, i.e., the days right before it. Please, avoid sending emails the evening (if possible, even the day) before the exam. I know it will be unavoidable and I will still answer such emails, but try your best.



# Personal Advices for Exercise Sessions

- Take notes! However you want! It was demonstrated that just listening does not let you learn while attending lectures. I also had the same feeling when I was a student at Politecnico.
- Focus on what I am explaining and not on the slides (even though they may be more appealing than me). The slides are there for you to study.
- Ask questions whenever you don't understand something.
- One good way of asking a question is to quickly explain what you understood and whether it is right or not.
- If you're not following the lecture, for whatever reason, please don't be noisy. Be respectful of your colleagues.
- If you manage, find a study group! Studying in group is far more enjoyable.

# Frontal Lectures VS Flipped Classrooms

## Frontal Lectures

- I'll explain the concepts in the slides during the lectures in detail.
- You'll do the practical work and exercises using the tools at home. It would otherwise take too much time to explain and run the examples.
- You can ask me questions about your doubts after (or during) lectures.

## Flipped Classrooms

- You'll study the slides at home before the lecture by yourself. I will not use the practical slides during the lecture.
- Lectures will be moments where I will share exercises to do and I will walk around the classroom, addressing your doubts about the exercises and the practical slides.
- Relevant doubts will be shared with the whole classroom.
- The most important exercises will be run in classroom.

ANY  
Questions?