Introduction to Python

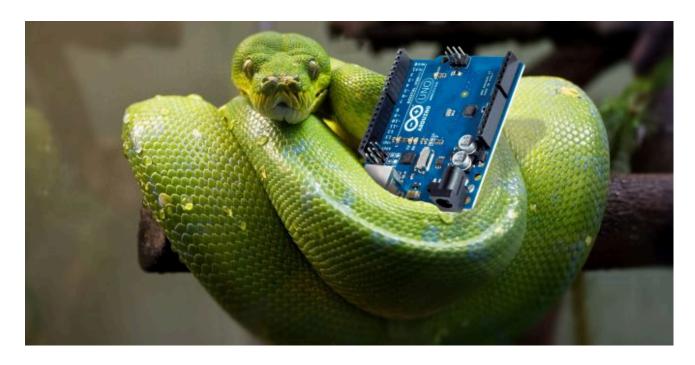
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Motivation

• What is Python?



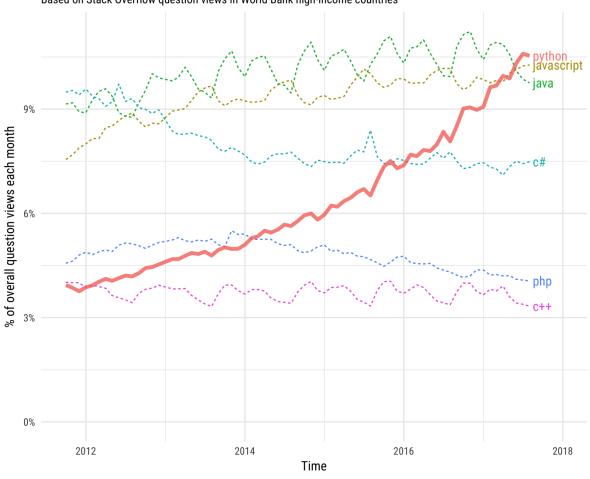
Motivation (cont.)

- Why learn Python?
 - o Data Science
 - Machine Learning

Motivation (cont.)

Growth of major programming languages

Based on Stack Overflow question views in World Bank high-income countries



Installation

Recommended:

- o anaconda distribution
 - Will provide access to popular IDE's like Spyder and Jupyter Notebook, and will auto-install many popular packages

Alternatives:

- Google Colab
- Terminal/Console (in line, or as a script)
- PyCharm
- o iPython

Installation (cont.)

- Other helpful things to install:
 - o brew (Link: https://brew.sh/)
 - o pip (pip install [package_name])
 - To install pip: easy_install pip

Packages in Python

- Packages (or libraries) in Python provide prewritten functions and objects
- If we want to use a function from a specific library, we have to import that specific library into our workspace

Packages in Python (cont.)

 Functions within the library can be accessed by calling the library name, followed by a period, and then the function name:

```
#Import library
import [library_name]
#Access function
[library_name].[function_name]
```

Packages in Python (cont.)

• If you just want to import a single function:

```
from [library_name] import [function_name]
o If you do that, you can simply call the function name.
```

You can even rename functions:

```
from [library_name] import [function_name]
as MyFunction
```

Packages in Python (cont.)

 If you want to import an entire library, you can do so by:

```
from [library_name] import *
```

- This is usually considered bad practice due to naming conflicts.
- Don't do this!

Expressions

Python is really a fancy calculator:

```
3+4
7
```

- When we type stuff into the console, this is known as an expression.
- Expressions are evaluated by Python to return a value.



Expressions (cont.)

We can use variables to help hold expressions.

```
x = 3+4
print(x)
7
```

• When we tell Python to do something explicitly (i.e., print, create a variable), we call this a *statement*.

Data Types

- Expressions can take on different data types.
- Common data types:
 - Numerics (numbers)
 - Strings (characters)
 - Boolean (true/false)
 - Lists

Data Types (cont.)

- Different data types will have various attributes/methods that are associated with them.
- We can access these attributes by using a period: [var_name].[attribute]
- There are mutable and immutable types
 - Fancy way to say that you can change objects by accessing

Strings

- Strings contain characters
- Example of some useful string attributes:
 - split splits a string on particular characters
 - upper converts everything to uppercase
 - o find identifies specific elements in the string

Strings (cont.)

```
#Small example
x = "Hello World!"
x.split(" ")
"Hello" "World!"
```

Basic Functions

- len(x)
 - Returns the length of an object
 - Equivalent to R's length() function

Basic Functions

- len(x)
 - Returns the length of an object
 - Equivalent to R's length() function
- set(x)
 - Returns unique items
 - Equivalent to R's unique() function
- Assignment operator: = (Unlike in R: <-)

Range Function

- range(x):
 - \circ Returns a sequence of numbers of length x, starting from 0
 - Will create a range object to view the contents, you have to write a for loop
 - o Example:
 - range(10)
 - Actually returns 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
 - **NOT**: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Range Function

- range(x):
 - \circ Returns a sequence of numbers of length x, starting from 0
 - Will create a range object to view the contents, you have to write a for loop
 - Example:
 - range(10)

Note: The range() object is an iterable, which means to see the contents of it, you have to use a for loop. For example, try: print(range(10)).

- Actually returns 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- **NOT**: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

White Spaces

- White spaces matter!
- There are no brackets in Python, so your computer determines the code folding by indentation/spaces

```
#In R:
for(i in 1:10){
    print(i)
}
var1<-i
print(var1)

#You can also write:
for(i in 1:10){
    print(i)
} var1<-i; print(var1)</pre>
```

```
#In Python:
for i in range(10):
    print(i+1)
var1=i
print var1
for i in range(10):
    print(i+1)
    var1=i
    print(var1)
```

Looping over Strings

```
#Try these on your own
for letter in "hello":
  print(letter)
my_string = "UCLA MAE"
for letter in my_string:
  print(letter)
count = 0
for letter in my_string:
  count = count + 1
print(count)
```

Lists [...]

- Similar to R's numeric vectors (x < -c(1, 2, 3, 4))
- We declare lists using brackets: [1, 2, 3, 4]
- Example:

```
#Numbers:
num_list = [1,2,3,4]

#Strings
str_list = ["hello", "world"]

#Lists
list_ception = [[1,2,3], [4,5,6], [7,8,9]]
```

Lists (cont.)

Common methods:

```
o x.append()
```

Adds stuff to the end of a list

```
o x.insert(i, x2)
```

- i = index at which we insert x2
- Inserts element at index i

```
\circ x.pop()
```

- Takes last element from list and remove it to store it elsewhere
- Like a stack in C++

Lists (cont.)

• A simple example:

```
list1 = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
list1.append([6, 7, 8])
print(list1)

[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, [6, 7, 8]]
```

• To add elements 6, 7, 8, you can use .extend()

```
list1.extend([6,7,8])
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, [6, 7, 8], 6, 7, 8]
```

Indexing

- In Python, we index starting from zero
- Example:

```
x = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]
```

o To access the first element of x (i.e., 1), what do we type?
print(x[0])

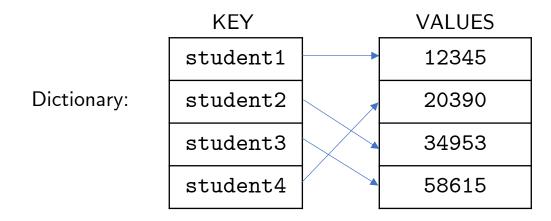
What if we want numerous elements?

We can use a colon to access slices of the data.

```
print(x[:5])
```

Dictionaries {}

- Python's version of a hashtable
- Each item in your dictionary has both a key and a value associated with it
- Defined by braces: { }
 - More specifically: {key1: value1, key1: value1, ...}



Dictionaries (cont.)

Example:

• Let's say we have a dictionary containing student names and their UID. Call this the registrar.

Dictionaries (cont.)

Example:

• Let's say we have a dictionary containing student names and their UID. Call this the registrar.

• So, to retrieve the UID associated with Student 4, we would simply type: registrar['Student4'].

Dictionaries (cont.)

- Why use a dictionary?
 - Very computationally efficient to retrieve information!
 - We can input a key, and retrieve the value without iterating through the entire list!

Iterables

- Certain objects in Python are iterables, which means that we can automatically loop through them
 - No need to manually iterate through the list with indexing.
- Let x = [1,3,0,5,9]. We don't have to call each item of x by x[i], we can just say:

```
for i in x:
    print(i)
#Compare the output to this:
for i in range(len(x)):
    print(x[i])
```

Checkpoint

- Print a sequence of numbers from 0 to 100.
- Print a sequence of even numbers from 2 to 100.
- Create a list of even numbers from 2 to 12.

Checkpoint

• Print a sequence of numbers from 0 to 100.

```
for x in range(101):
    print(x)
```

• Print a sequence of even numbers from 2 to 100.

```
for x in range(99):
    print(x+2)
```

• Create a list of even numbers from 2 to 12:

```
numbers = []
for x in range(6):
   numbers.append((x+1)*2)
```

List Comprehension

- List comprehension is a way to define lists and dictionaries in a way where you have a nested for loop within your list.
- Let's say we want to create a list from 1 to 10.
- You could write:

```
Numbers = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]
```

Alternatively, using list comprehension:

```
Numbers = [x+1 \text{ for } x \text{ in } range(10)]
```

List Comprehension (cont.)

- Provides an elegant way to set up lists
- Let's say you have a really messed up list that contains lists within itself (a list-ception)
- The inner list contains 6 elements:
 - 1. Open Price
 - 2. High
 - 3. Low
 - 4. Close
 - 5. Volume Traded
 - 6. Market Cap

List Comprehension (cont.)

 To separate each element so that you can have just a list that contains all opening prices, you can use list comprehension:

```
data = [[42, 53, 10, 25, 2300, 5112346], [12, 32, 12, 31, 2600, 1094529], ...
[23, 51, 23, 25, 2015, 1034951]]
```

 To separate each element so that you can have just a list that contains all opening prices, you can use list comprehension:

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```
data = [42, 53, 10, 25, 2300, 5112346],
[12, 32, 12, 31, 2600, 1094529],
...
[23, 51, 23, 25, 2015, 1034951]]
```

This is the **first inner list** of the larger list. So to call it, we write: data[0]. But this returns the entire inner list! We only want the first element of the inner list.

 To separate each element so that you can have just a list that contains all opening prices, you can use list comprehension:

```
data = [[42, 53, 10, 25, 2300, 5112346], [12, 32, 12, 31, 2600, 1094529], ...
[23, 51, 23, 25, 2015, 1034951]]
```

• To call the first element, we treat data[0] as if it is any other list, and write: data[0][0].

 To separate each element so that you can have just a list that contains all opening prices, you can use list comprehension:

 To access the first elements of the i-th list: data[i][0].

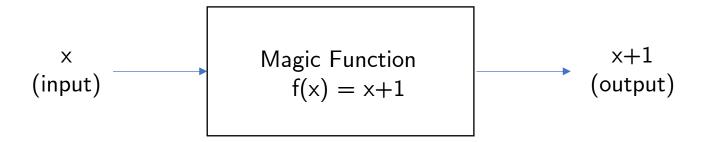
 To separate each element so that you can have just a list that contains all opening prices, you can use list comprehension:

```
#List comprehension:
open = [data[i][0] for i in range(len(data))]

#Equivalent to the following for loop:
open = [] #Empty list
for i in range(len(data)):
    open.append(data[i][0])
```

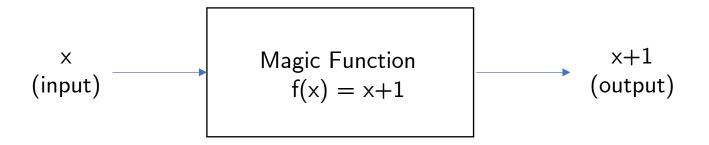
Functions

- In programming, we use functions so that we can perform repetitive tasks easily.
- Functions take things in as inputs and then produces some sort of result



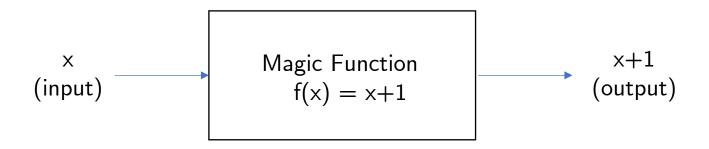
• To declare a function:

```
def functionName(inputVariables):
    [function body]
    return(someVariable)
```



• Programmatically:

```
def magicFunction(x):
    return x+1
```



Indicates to computer that this is the result (i.e., output)

- When you modify variables within a function, you do not modify them in the global environment.
- As an example, what gets printed out?

```
x = 3
magicFunction(x)
print(x)
```

- So what if we want to store the value that the function outputs?
- Assign the output to a new variable:

```
x = 3
x_new = magicFunction(x)
print(x)
print(x_new)
```

NumPy

- What is NumPy?
 - Scientific computing library on Python
 - Provides the basis of much of the machine learning and stats packages in Python
- To import:

import numpy as np

NumPy array - np.array()

- Represents vectors and matrices
- An array can only contain elements that are of the same data type
- Each array has:
 - shape tuple that represents the dimension of the object
 - dtype an object that tells us what data type the array is
 - o ndim how many dimensions there are

Creating arrays:

```
data1 = [6, 7.5, 8, 0, 1]
arr1 = np.array(data1)
print(arr1)
array([6., 7.5, 8., 0., 1.])
```

 If you input lists of lists, you end up with a multidimensional array:

```
data2 = [[1, 2, 3, 4], [5, 6, 7, 8]]
arr2 = np.array(data2)
print(arr2.ndim)

2

print(arr2.shape)
(2,4)
```

Other ways to create NumPy arrays:

• np.zeros(x) - creates an array with dimension/shape specified by x (Note: x can be multidimensional)

Intuition

 What does a NumPy array represent in the context of data analytics?

```
array([[1], 3, ... 5, 2],
[1], 6, ... 2, 7],
[2], ... 5, 2],
[2], 6, ... 2, 7],
[3], ... 5, 2],
[4], 6, ... 3, 1]])
```

- np.zeros()
- np.ones()
- np.empty()
- np.eye() creates an N by N identity matrix
- np.arange() like the range() function but stores the result in an array object
- np.random.random() generates random numbers

NumPy Operations

- Arrays are great because we can bypass writing for loops to apply batch operations across all the elements within the array
 - We call this vectorization
- For example:

NumPy Operations (cont.)

- Everything happens elementwise usually
- Basic operations:
 - Adding a scalar will just add the scalar to each element in the matrix
 - All arithmetic operates elementwise (same with multiplying b a scalar)
- Array multiplication will not be matrix multiplication!
 - For matrix multiplication: np.dot(x1, x2)

Common Mathematical Operations

- np.dot(arr.T, arr)
 - Note: the .T operation transposes the matrix
- np.mean(), np.var()
- np.sum()
- np.cumsum(), np.cumprod()
- np.min/np.max

Note: we can compute these quantities over a specific axis only by specifying the axis in the function (i.e., np.sum(axis=1))

Checkpoint

- 1. Create a 3x3 matrix with values ranging from 0 to 8.
- 2. Create a 10x10 array with random values and find the minimum and maximum values
- 3. Create a null vector (vector of all zeroes) of size 10 but the fifth value which is 1
- 4. Generate a random vector of size 30 and find the mean.

Indexing

• One dimensional arrays behave like lists:

```
arr = np.arange(10)
print(arr)

array([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9])
print(arr[5])

5

print(arr[5:8])
array([5, 6, 7])
```

 When we access several elements from a list or array (i.e., arr [5:8]), we refer to that as slicing (because we have a slice of data)

• If we assign a scalar value (i.e., just 1 number) to a slice of data, we call this *broadcasting*

```
#Example continued
arr[5:8] = 12
print(arr[5:8])
array([ 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 12, 12, 8, 9])
```

- We see that the value 12 has been propagated (or broadcast) to the entire selection
- Any modifications we make to the slices of the array are also made on the original array!

We have to be careful:

```
arr_slice = arr[5:8]
arr_slice[1] = 12345
print(arr)

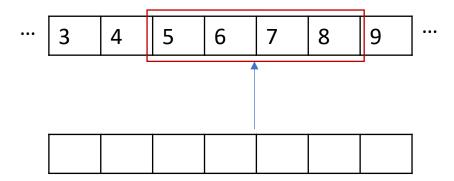
array([ 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 12345, 12, 8, 9])

arr_slice[:] = 64
print(arr)

array([ 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 64, 64, 64, 8, 9])
```

What's happening here?!

- arr_slice = arr[5:8]
- Simply creates a pointer to part of the original object (arr).
- As a result, when we modify arr_slice, we also modify arr!



Indexing in Higher Dimensions

Similar to how we index nested lists:

o To access the 3rd element of arr2[2], what would we need to type?

Indexing in Higher Dimensions

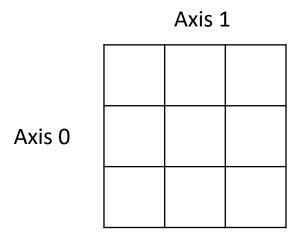
Similar to how we index nested lists:

o To access the 3rd element of arr2[2], what would we need to type?

```
print(arr2[2][2])
```

Indexing with Slices

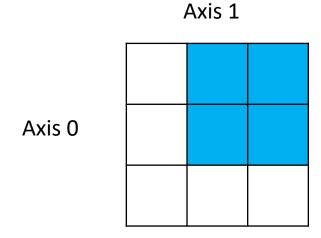
- This seems a little inefficient though
- We can also index and access different dimensions by slicing (which is the more common approach)
- In general: arr[axis0, axis1]



Indexing with Slices (cont.)

 What part of the matrix would the following return?

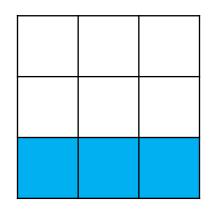
print(arr[:2, 1:])



What is the corresponding shape of the matrix? arr.shape (2,2)

Indexing with Slices

What if I wanted to access the following instead?



Possible solutions:

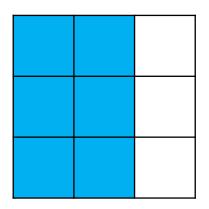
- arr[2]
- arr[2,:]
- arr[2:,:]

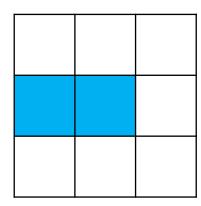
What is the difference?

The shape of arr[2:,:] will be (1,3), while the first two calls generate an object that is of shape (3,).

Indexing with Slices

• Try to subset the highlighted parts of the 3x3 matrix using slicing. Check the shapes of each matrix that you end up subsetting.





Boolean Indexing (cont.)

- Similar to R in that we can index using booleans
- In other words, we can target operations to only segments of the array that meet the criteria we input

Boolean Indexing (cont.)

Example:

```
#Generate data:

data = np.random.random(7, 4)*10-5

print(data)

array([[-0.048, 0.5433, -0.2349, 1.2792],

        [-0.268, 0.5465, 0.0939, -2.0445],

        [-0.047, -2.026, 0.7719, 0.3103],

        [ 2.1452, 0.8799, -0.0523, 0.0672],

        [-1.0023, -0.1698, 1.1503, 1.7289],

        [ 0.1913, 0.4544, 0.4519, 0.5535],

        [ 0.5994, 0.8174, -0.9297, -1.2564]])
```

Boolean Indexing (cont.)

Example:

```
#Generate data:

data = np.random.random(7, 4)

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array([[-0.048, 0.5433, -0.2349, 1.2792],

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        [ 0.1913, 0.4544, 0.4519, 0.5535],

        [ 0.5994, 0.8174, -0.9297, -1.2564]])
```

Boolean Indexing

Goal:

Set all of the elements that are negative to 0.

Boolean Indexing (cont.)

- We can even mask one array using a different boolean array
 - Fancy way to say we can keep data that corresponds to another matrix with true/false entries
 - The nuance is that the length of the boolean array has to match that of the axis from which it is indexing.

Boolean Indexing (cont.)

```
• np.where()
```

Equivalent (or at least very similar) to R's ifelse()

Boolean Indexing (cont.)

```
arr = np.random.random(4, 4)*10-5
array([[ 0.6372, 2.2043, 1.7904, 0.0752],
       [-1.5926, -1.1536, 0.4413, 0.3483],
       [-0.1798, 0.3299, 0.7827, -0.7585],
       [0.5857, 0.1619, 1.3583, -1.3865])
np.where(arr > 0, 2, -2)
array([[ 2, 2, 2, 2],
       [-2, -2, 2, 2]
       [-2, 2, 2, -2],
       [2, 2, 2, -2]
```

Pandas

• Stands for Panel Data (not the animal)

• Is Python's version of R's data.frame() object

• Has built-in features for data manipulation

• To import:

import pandas as pd



pd.Series

- One dimensional array-like object
- Associated array that contains data labels which we call the index

```
obj = pd.Series([4, 7, -5, 3])
print(obj.values)
array([4, 7, -5, 3])
print(obj.index)
Int64Index([0, 1, 2, 3])
INDEX
VALUES

0
4

7

2
3
```

pd.Series

We can modify the index to be non-numerical

• You can use the values in the index to select values from the series. For example, what would print(obj2['a']) return?

pd.Series (cont.)

• We can also create pd. Series from a dictionary.

pd.DataFrame

- Panda's analog to R's data.frame() object
- To create a DataFrame, we usually will input a dictionary with equal-length lists (or NumPy arrays)
 - The keys correspond to the column names
 - The values will be the actual series of each column
- We can also input a np.array() and specify the column names.

pd.DataFrame (cont.)

A simple example:

pd.DataFrame (cont.)

You can modify the order of the columns:

```
pd.DataFrame(data, columns=['year', 'state', 'pop'])
    year    state    pop
0    2000    Ohio    1.5
1    2001    Ohio    1.7
2    2002    Ohio    3.6
3    2001    Nevada    2.4
4    2002    Nevada    2.9
```

Accessing Values

- To access the column values from the DataFrame, we can use:
 - o Dictionary-based notation (i.e., frame2['state'])
 - Attribute (i.e., frame2.state)
- If we want the row values from a DataFrame, we can use something known as the indexing field: frame2.ix[index value]

Dropping Entries

• We can take out entries and store it in a new object using the .drop() attribute.

Dropping Entries (cont.)

• In a DataFrame, we can delete from either axis

```
data = pd.DataFrame(
   np.arange(16).reshape((4, 4)),
   index=['Ohio', 'Colorado', 'Utah', 'New York'],
   columns=['one', 'two', 'three', 'four'])
        one two three four
         0 1 2
Ohio
Colorado 4 5 6
                  10 11
Utah
New York 12
             13 14
                      15
```

Dropping Entries (cont.)

• To delete two rows:

Dropping Entries (cont.)

• To delete a column:

Indexing

• Summary of common indexing methods:

Method Type	Description
obj[val]	Select column
obj.ix[val]	Selects single row
obj.ix[:,val]	Selects single column
obj.ix[val1, val2]	Selects both rows and columns
obj.reindex()	Allows you to rename indices
icol, irow	Selects column/row by integer location

Applying Functions to DataFrames

 Common operations (like sum/mean) are already built in methods, so we can simply call them

```
#Sums over columns
frame.sum()
#Sums over rows
frame.sum(axis = 1)
```

 Additionally common numpy methods also transfer to DataFrames

```
#Absolute value:
np.abs(frame)
```

Applying Functions to DataFrames

```
#A simple example
frame = pd.DataFrame(
   np.random.randn(4, 3),
   columns=list('bde'),
   index=['Utah', 'Ohio', 'Texas', 'Oregon'])
          b
                      d e
Utah -0.204708 0.478943 -0.519439
Ohio -0.555730 1.965781 1.393406
Texas 0.092908 0.281746 0.769023
Oregon 1.246435 1.007189 -1.296221
np.abs(frame)
```

Applying Functions to DataFrames (cont.)

 There is also a built in attribute .apply() that will perform a custom function across a DataFrame.

Generating Summary Statistics

- Some Useful Methods:
 - count (provides number of non-NA values)
 - describe (summary statistics)
 - min/max/argmin/argmax
 - Other stats things:
 - mean, median, var, std, skew, kurt
 - o pct change: computes percentage changes
 - o diff: takes the first difference