Unit 8: Handling data with pandas

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1 Handling data with pandas

1.1 Motivation

So far, we have encountered NumPy arrays as the only way to store numerical data (we mostly ignored the built-in containers provided directly in Python). However, while NumPy arrays are great for storing homogenous data without any particular structure, they are somewhat limited when we want to use them for high-level data analysis.

For example, we usually want to process data sets with

- 1. several variables;
- 2. multiple observations, which need not be identical across variables (some values may be missing);
- 3. non-homogenous data types: for examples, names need to be stored as strings, birthdays as dates and income as a floating-point number.

While NumPy can in principle handle such situations, it puts all the burden on the user. Most users would prefer to not have to deal with such low-level details.

Imagine we want to store names, birth dates and annual income for two people:

Name	Date of birth	Income		
Alice Bob	1985-01-01 1997-05-12	30,000		

No income was reported for Bob, so it's missing. With NumPy, we could do this as follows:

```
[1]: import numpy as np
from datetime import date

date1 = date(1985, 1, 1)  # birth date for Alice
date2 = date(1997, 5, 12)  # birth date for Bob
```

```
[2]: data.dtype # print array data type
```

[2]: dtype('0')

While we can create such arrays, they are almost useless for data analysis, in particular since everything is stored as a generic object.

• To be fair, NumPy offers an alternative array type called "record" or "structured" array which can handle fields of different data types.

However, the pandas library offers much more beyond that, so there is little reason to use structured arrays.

Pandas was created to offer more versatile data structures that are straightforward to use for storing, manipulating and analysing heterogeneous data:

- 1. Data is clearly organised in *variables* and *observations*, similar to econometrics programs such as Stata.
- 2. Each variable is permitted to have a different data type.
- 3. We can use *labels* to select observations, instead of having to use a linear numerical index as with NumPy.

We could, for example, index a data set using National Insurance Numbers.

4. Pandas offers many convenient data aggregation and reduction routines that can be applied to subsets of data.

For example, we can easily group observations by city and compute average incomes.

5. Pandas also offers many convenient data import / export functions that go beyond what's in NumPy.

Should we be using pandas at all times, then? No!

- For low-level tasks where performance is essential, use NumPy.
- For homogenous data without any particular data structure, use NumPy.
- On the other hand, if data is heterogeneous, needs to be imported from an external data source and cleaned or transformed before performing computations, use pandas.

There are numerous tutorials on pandas on the internet, so we will keep this unit short and illustrate only the main concepts. Useful references to additional material include:

- The official user guide.
- The official pandas cheat sheet which nicely illustrates the most frequently used operations.
- The official API reference with details on every pandas object and function.
- There are numerous tutorials (including videos) available on the internet. See here for a list.

1.2 Creating pandas data structures

Pandas has two main data structures:

- 1. Series represents observations of a single variable.
- 2. DataFrame is a container for several variables. You can think of each individual column of a DataFrame as a Series, and each row represents one observation.

The easiest way to create a Series or DataFrame is to create them from pre-existing data.

To access pandas data structures and routines, we need to import them first. The near-universal convention is to make pandas available using the name pd:

```
[3]: import pandas as pd
```

Examples:

We can create a DataFrame from a NumPy array:

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd  # universal convention: import using pd
from numpy.random import default_rng

# Draw normally distributed data
rng = default_rng(123)
data = rng.normal(size=(10,3))

# Define variable (or column) names
varnames = ['A', 'B', 'C']

# Create pandas DataFrame
pd.DataFrame(data, columns=varnames)
```

```
[4]: A B C

0 -0.989121 -0.367787 1.287925
1 0.193974 0.920231 0.577104
2 -0.636464 0.541952 -0.316595
3 -0.322389 0.097167 -1.525930
4 1.192166 -0.671090 1.000269
5 0.136321 1.532033 -0.659969
6 -0.311795 0.337769 -2.207471
7 0.827921 1.541630 1.126807
8 0.754770 -0.145978 1.281902
9 1.074031 0.392621 0.005114
```

This code creates a DataFrame of three variables called A, B and C with 10 observations each.

Alternatively, we can create a DataFrame from non-homogenous data as follows:

```
[5]: # Names (strings)
    names = ['Alice', 'Bob']

# Birth dates (datetime objects)
    bdates = pd.to_datetime(['1985-01-01', '1997-05-12'])

# Incomes (floats)
    incomes = np.array([35000, np.nan]) # code missing income as NaN

# create DataFrame from dictionary
    pd.DataFrame({'Name': names, 'Birthdate': bdates, 'Income': incomes})
```

```
[5]: Name Birthdate Income
0 Alice 1985-01-01 35000.0
1 Bob 1997-05-12 NaN
```

If data types differ across columns, as in the above example, it is often convenient to create the <code>DataFrame</code> by passing a dictionary as an argument. Each key represents a column name and each corresponding value contains the data for that variable.

1.3 Viewing data

With large data sets, you hardly ever want to print the entire <code>DataFrame</code>. Pandas by default limits the amount of data shown. You can use the <code>head()</code> and <code>tail()</code> methods to explicitly display a specific number of rows from the top or the end of a <code>DataFrame</code>.

To illustrate, we use a data set of 23 UK universities that contains the following variables:

- Institution: Name of the institution
- Country: Country/nation within the UK (England, Scotland,...)
- Founded: Year in which university (or a predecessor institution) was founded
- Students: Total number of students
- Staff: Number of academic staff
- Admin: Number of administrative staff
- Budget: Budget in million pounds
- Russell: Binary indicator whether university is a member of the Russell Group, an association of the UK's top research universities.

The data was compiled based on information from Wikipedia.

We read in the data stored in the file universities.csv (from the data/folder) like this:

```
[6]: import pandas as pd

# relative path to CSV file
file = '../data/universities.csv'

# Load sample data set of UK universities
df = pd.read_csv(file, sep=';')
```

We can now display the first and last three rows:

```
[7]: df.head(3)
                    # show first three rows
                    Institution
                                 Country Founded Students
                                                              Staff
                                                                     Admin
[7]:
     0
          University of Glasgow Scotland 1451 30805 2942.0 4003.0
     1 University of Edinburgh Scotland 1583
2 University of St Andrews Scotland 1413
                                                    34275 4589.0 6107.0
                                                     8984 1137.0 1576.0
       Budget Russell
     0
        626.5
               1
       1102.0
     1
                     1
        251.2
[8]: df.tail(3) # show last three rows
                       Institution
                                           Country Founded Students
                                                                       Staff
[8]:
     20
            University of Stirling
                                         Scotland 1967 9548
                                                                       NaN
        Queen's University Belfast Northern Ireland
     21
                                                       1810
                                                                18438 2414.0
     22
                Swansea University
                                              Wales
                                                       1920
                                                                20620
                                                                          NaN
         Admin Budget Russell
     20
        1872.0
                113.3
                            0
         1489.0
                 369.2
                              1
     21
     22 3290.0
                  NaN
                              0
```

To quickly compute some descriptive statistics for the *numerical* variables in the DataFrame, we use describe():

```
256.992149 9093.000735 2025.638038 1550.434342 608.234948
std
      1096.000000 8984.000000 1086.000000 1489.000000 113.300000
min
25%
      1589.000000 18776.500000 2294.250000 2193.500000 340.850000
                                                       643.750000
50%
      1826.000000 23247.000000 3307.500000 3485.000000
75%
      1941.500000 30801.500000 4439.750000 4347.500000 1023.500000
      2004.000000 41180.000000 7913.000000 6199.000000 2450.000000
max
        Russell
count 23.000000
mean
       0.739130
      0.448978
std
      0.000000
min
      0.500000
2.5%
50%
      1.000000
75%
      1.000000
      1.000000
max
```

Note that this automatically ignores the columns Institution and Country as they contain strings and computing the mean, etc. of a string variable does not make sense.

To see low-level information about the data type used in each column, we call info():

```
[10]: df.info()
```

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 23 entries, 0 to 22
Data columns (total 8 columns):
          Non-Null Count Dtype
# Column
              _____
                          object
0
  Institution 23 non-null
                           object
1 Country 23 non-null
             23 non-null
  Founded
                           int64
3 Students 23 non-null
                           int64
4 Staff
             20 non-null
                           float64
5 Admin
              19 non-null
                           float64
6 Budget
             22 non-null
                           float64
7 Russell 23 non-null int64
dtypes: float64(3), int64(3), object(2)
memory usage: 1.6+ KB
```

Pandas automatically discards missing information in computations. For example, the number of academic staff is missing for several universities, so the number of *non-null* entries reported in the table above is less than 23, the overall sample size.

1.4 Indexing

Pandas supports two types of indexing:

- 1. Indexing by position. This is basically identical to the indexing of other Python and NumPy containers.
- 2. Indexing by label, i.e. by the values assigned to the row or column index. These labels need not be integers in increasing order, as is the case for NumPy.

We will see how to assign labels below.

Pandas indexing is performed either by using brackets [], or by using .loc[] for label indexing, or .iloc[] for positional indexing.

Indexing via [] can be somewhat confusing:

- specifying df['name'] returns the column name as a Series object.
- On the other hand, specifying a range such as df[5:10] returns the *rows* associated with the *positions* 5,...,9.

Examples:

[13]: df[1:4]

```
[11]: import pandas as pd
       # Load sample data set of UK universities
      df = pd.read_csv('../data/universities.csv', sep=';')
      df['Institution']
                                       # select a single column
[11]: 0
                       University of Glasgow
      1
                     University of Edinburgh
      2
                    University of St Andrews
      3
                      University of Aberdeen
      4
                   University of Strathclyde
      5
                                          LSE
      6
                                          UCL
      7
                     University of Cambridge
      8
                        University of Oxford
      9
                       University of Warwick
      10
                     Imperial College London
      11
                       King's College London
      12
                    University of Manchester
      13
                       University of Bristol
                    University of Birmingham
      14
      15
            Queen Mary University of London
      16
                          University of York
      17
                    University of Nottingham
                        University of Dundee
      18
      19
                          Cardiff University
      20
                      University of Stirling
      21
                  Queen's University Belfast
                          Swansea University
      Name: Institution, dtype: object
[12]: df[['Institution', 'Students']]
                                            # select multiple columns using a list
[12]:
                               Institution Students
      0
                     University of Glasgow
                                               30805
                   University of Edinburgh
      1
                                                34275
      2
                  University of St Andrews
                                                8984
      3
                    University of Aberdeen
                                                14775
      4
                 University of Strathclyde
                                                22640
      5
                                                11850
                                       LSE
      6
                                       UCL
                                                41180
      7
                   University of Cambridge
                                                23247
      8
                      University of Oxford
                                                24515
      9
                     University of Warwick
                                                27278
      10
                   Imperial College London
                                                19115
      11
                    King's College London
                                                32895
      12
                  University of Manchester
                                                40250
      13
                     University of Bristol
                                                25955
                                                35445
      14
                  University of Birmingham
          Queen Mary University of London
      15
                                                20560
      16
                        University of York
                                                19470
      17
                  University of Nottingham
                                                30798
      18
                      University of Dundee
                                                15915
      19
                        Cardiff University
                                                25898
      20
                    University of Stirling
                                                9548
      21
                Queen's University Belfast
                                                18438
                                                20620
                        Swansea University
      To return the rows at positions 1, 2 and 3 we use
```

Pandas follows the Python convention that indices are 0-based, and the endpoint of a slice is not included.

1.4.1 Manipulating indices

Pandas uses *labels* to index and align data. These can be integer values starting at 0 with increments of 1 for each additional element, which is the default, but they need not be. The two main methods to manipulate indices are:

- set_index (keys=['column1', ...]): uses the values of column1 and optionally additional columns as indices, discarding the current index.
- reset_index(): resets the index to its default value, a sequence of increasing integers starting at 0.

Both methods return a new DataFrame and leave the original DataFrame unchanged. If we want to change the existing DataFrame, we need to pass the argument inplace=True.

For example, we can replace the row index and use the Roman lower-case characters a, b, c, ... as labels instead of integers:

```
[14]: import pandas as pd
       df = pd.read_csv('../data/universities.csv', sep=';')
       # Create list of lower-case letters which has same
       # length as the number of observations.
       index = [chr(97+i) for i in range(len(df))] # len(df) returns number of obs.
       index
[14]: ['a',
        'b',
        'C',
        'd',
        'e',
        'f',
        'g',
        'i',
        'j',
        'k',
        '1',
        'm',
        'n',
        '0',
        'p',
        'q',
        'r',
        's',
        't',
        'u',
        'v',
        'w']
```

```
[15]:
                                 Institution
                                                Country Founded Students
                                                                                       Staff
                                                                                                 Admin \
        index
                University of Glasgow Scotland 1451
University of Edinburgh Scotland 1583
University of St Andrews Scotland 1413
                                                                            30805 2942.0 4003.0
                                                                           34275 4589.0 6107.0
        h
                                                                            8984 1137.0 1576.0
                Budget Russell
        index
                  626.5
                                 1
        а
        b
                1102.0
                                 1
                 251.2
                                  0
```

To add to the confusion, note that when specifying a range in terms of labels, the last element is included! Hence the row with index c in the above example is shown.

We can reset the index to its default integer values using the reset_index() method:

```
[16]: # Reset index labels to default value (integers 0, 1, 2, ...)
df_new = df.reset_index(drop=True)
df_new.head(3) # print first 3 rows of new DataFrame
```

The drop=True argument tells pandas to throw away the old index values instead of storing them as a column of the resulting DataFrame.

1.4.2 Selecting elements

To more clearly distinguish between selection by label and by position, pandas provides the .loc[] and .iloc[] methods of indexing. To make your intention obvious, you should therefore adhere to the following rules:

- 1. Use df ['name'] only to select *columns* and nothing else.
- 2. Use .loc[] to select by label.
- 3. Use .iloc[] to select by position.

Selection by label

To illustrate, using .loc[] unambiguously indexes by label:

With .loc[] we can even perform slicing on column names, which is not possible with the simpler df[] syntax:

This includes all the columns between Institution and Founded, where the latter is included since we are slicing by label.

Trying to pass in positional arguments will return an error for the given DataFrame since the index labels are a, b, c,... and not 0, 1, 2...

```
[19]: df.loc[0:4]

TypeError: cannot do slice indexing on Index with these indexers [0] of type int
```

However, we can reset the index to its default value. Then the index labels are integers and coincide with their position, so that .loc[] works:

```
[20]: df.reset_index(inplace=True, drop=True)
                                                   # reset index labels to integers,
                                                   # drop original index
      df.loc[0:4]
                                    Country Founded Students
[20]:
                       Institution
                                                                   Staff
                                                                           Admin
             University of Glasgow Scotland 1451 30805 2942.0 4003.0
          University of Edinburgh Scotland 1583
                                                          34275 4589.0 6107.0
      1
      2
          University of St Andrews Scotland 1413
                                                           8984 1137.0 1576.0
      3 University of Aberdeen Scotland 1495 14775 1086.0 1489.0 4 University of Strathclyde Scotland 1964 22640 NaN 3200.0
         Budget Russell
      0
          626.5
                 1
      1
         1102.0
                       1
      2
          251.2
                       0
      3
          219.5
                       0
      4
          304.4
```

Again, the end point with label 4 is included because we are selecting by label.

Somewhat surprisingly, we can also pass boolean arrays to .loc[] even though these are clearly not labels:

```
[21]: df.loc[df['Country'] == 'Scotland']
                     Institution Country Founded Students
                                                          Staff
[21]:
                                                                 Admin
     0
           University of Glasgow Scotland 1451 30805 2942.0 4003.0
     1
          University of Edinburgh Scotland
                                          1583
                                                   34275 4589.0 6107.0
         University of St Andrews Scotland
                                          1413
                                                   8984 1137.0 1576.0
           University of Aberdeen Scotland
                                          1495
                                                  14775 1086.0 1489.0
     4
        University of Strathclyde Scotland
                                          1964
                                                   22640
                                                            NaN 3200.0
     18
             University of Dundee Scotland 1967
                                                  15915 1410.0 1805.0
           University of Stirling Scotland
                                           1967
                                                    9548 NaN 1872.0
     2.0
         Budget Russell
     Ω
         626.5
               1
         1102.0
```

```
2 251.2 0
3 219.5 0
4 304.4 0
18 256.4 0
20 113.3 0
```

Indexing via .loc[] supports a few more types of arguments, see the official documentation for details.

Selection by position

Conversely, if we want to select items exclusively by their position and ignore their labels, we use .iloc[]:

Again, .iloc[] supports a multitude of other arguments, including boolean arrays. See the official documentation for details.

1.5 Aggregation and reduction

1.5.1 Working with entire DataFrames

The simplest way to perform data reduction is to invoke the desired routine on the entire DataFrame:

Methods such as mean () are by default applied column-wise to each numerical column.

One big advantage over NumPy is that missing values (represented by np.nan) are automatically ignored:

```
[24]: # mean() automatically drops 3 missing observations
df['Staff'].mean()
[24]: 3664.25
```

1.5.2 Splitting and grouping

Applying aggregation functions to the entire DataFrame is similar to what we can do with NumPy. The added flexibility of pandas becomes obvious once we want to apply these functions to subsets of data, i.e. groups, which we can define based on values or index labels.

For example, we can easily group our universities by country:

```
[25]: import pandas as pd

df = pd.read_csv('../data/universities.csv', sep=';')

groups = df.groupby(['Country'])
```

Here groups is a special pandas objects which can subsequently be used to process group-specific data. To compute the group-wise averages, we can simply run

```
[26]: groups.mean()
[26]:
                          Founded
                                      Students
                                                     Staff
                                                                 Admin
      Country
                      1745.923077 27119.846154 4336.692308 4112.000000
     England
     Northern Ireland 1810.000000 18438.000000 2414.000000 1489.000000
                      1691.428571 19563.142857 2232.800000 2864.571429
      Scotland
     Wales
                      1901.500000 23259.000000 3330.000000 4514.500000
                           Budget
                                   Russell
      Country
     England
                      1001.700000 1.000000
     Northern Ireland 369.200000 1.000000
      Scotland
                       410.471429 0.285714
     Wales
                       644.800000 0.500000
```

Groups support column indexing: if we want to only compute the total number of students for each country in our sample, we can do this as follows:

There are numerous routines to aggregate grouped data, for example:

- mean(), sum(): averages and sums over numerical items within groups.
- std(), var(): within-group std. dev. and variances
- size(): group sizes
- first (), last (): first and last elements in each group
- min(), max(): minimum and maximum elements within a group

Examples:

```
# return number of elements in each group
[28]: groups.size()
[28]: Country
      England
                          13
      Northern Ireland
                          1
                           7
      Scotland
      Wales
                           2
      dtype: int64
[29]: groups.first()
                          # return first element in each group
                                                                       Staff \
                                      Institution Founded Students
[29]:
      Country
                                              LSE
                                                      1895
                                                               11850 1725.0
      Northern Ireland Queen's University Belfast
                                                      1810
                                                              18438 2414.0
      Scotland
                            University of Glasgow
                                                      1451
                                                              30805 2942.0
```

Wales		Cardiff	University	1883	25898	3330.0
	Admin	Budget	Russell			
Country						
England	2515.0	415.1	1			
Northern Ireland	1489.0	369.2	1			
Scotland	4003.0	626.5	1			
Wales	5739.0	644.8	1			

We can create custom aggregation routines by calling agg() or aggregate() on the grouped object. To illustrate, we count the number of universities in each country that have more than 20,000 students:

Note that we called agg() only on the column Students, otherwise the function would be applied to every column separately, which is not what we want.

The most flexible aggregation method is apply() which calls a given function, passing the entire group-specific subset of data (including all columns) as an argument, and glues together the results.

For example, if we want to compute the average budget per student (in pounds), we can do this as follows:

We couldn't have done this with agg(), since agg() never gets to see the entire chunk of data but only one column at a time.

This section provided only a first look at pandas's "split-apply-combine" functionality implemented via groupby. See the official documentation for more details.

1.6 Visualisation

We covered plotting with Matplotlib in earlier units. Pandas itself implements some convenience wrappers around Matplotlib plotting routines which allow us to quickly inspect data stored in DataFrames. Alternatively, we can extract the numerical data and pass it to Matplotlib's routines manually.

For example, to plot student numbers as a bar chart, we can directly use pandas:

```
[32]: import pandas as pd

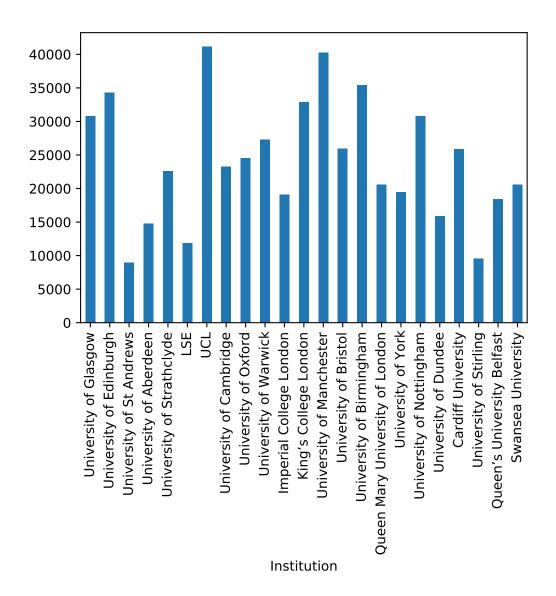
df = pd.read_csv('../data/universities.csv', sep=';')

# set institution as label so they automatically show up in plot

df2 = df.set_index(keys=['Institution'])

df2['Students'].plot(kind='bar') # same as df2['Students'].plot.bar()
```

[32]: <AxesSubplot:xlabel='Institution'>



Alternatively, we can construct the graph using Matplotlib ourselves:

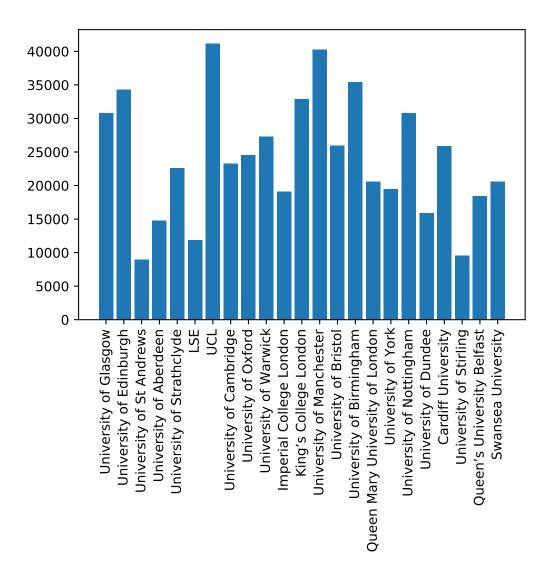
```
[33]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

labels = df['Institution'].to_list()  # labels as list

values = df['Students'].to_numpy()  # data as NumPy array

plt.bar(labels, values)

plt.tick_params(axis='x', labelrotation=90)
```



Sometimes Matplotlib's routines directly work with pandas's data structures, sometimes they don't. In cases where they don't, we can convert a DataFrame or Series object to a NumPy array using the to_numpy() method, and convert a Series to a Python list using to_list(), as illustrated in the example above.

To plot timeseries-like data, we can use the plot () method, which optionally accepts arguments to specify which columns should be used for the x-axis and which for the y-axis:

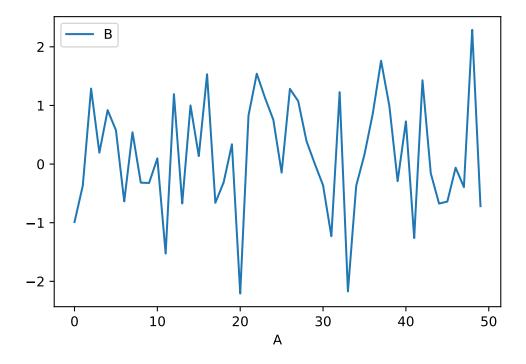
```
[34]: import numpy as np
import pandas as pd

# Instantiate RNG
rng = np.random.default_rng(123)

# Create pandas DataFrame
nobs = 50
df = pd.DataFrame({'A': np.arange(nobs), 'B': rng.normal(size=nobs)})

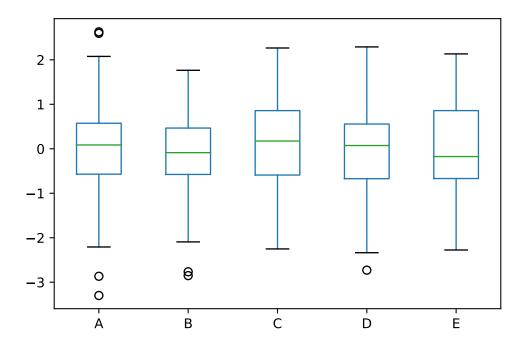
df.plot(x='A', y='B') # plot A on x-axis, B on y-axis
```

[34]: <AxesSubplot:xlabel='A'>



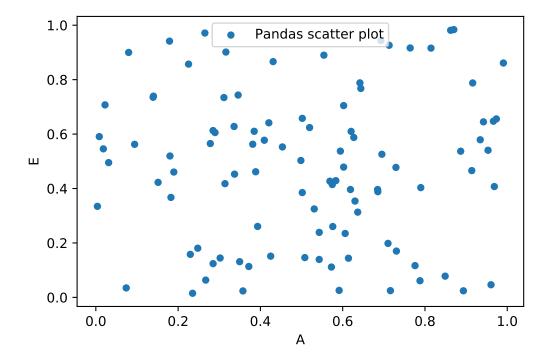
To quickly generate some descriptive statistics, we can use the built-in box plot:

[35]: <AxesSubplot:>



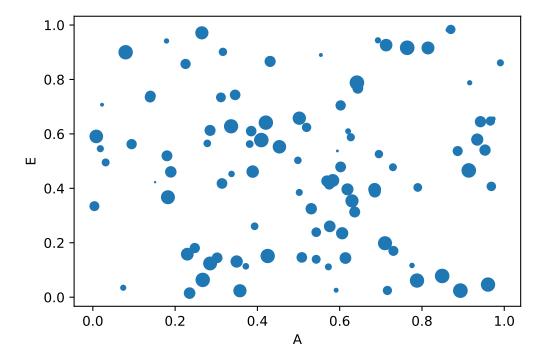
Similarly, we can generate scatter plots, plotting one column against another:

[36]: <AxesSubplot:xlabel='A', ylabel='E'>



```
[37]: # We can even use a column to specify the dot size! df.plot.scatter(x='A', y='E', s=df['B']*100.0)
```

[37]: <AxesSubplot:xlabel='A', ylabel='E'>



In general, the wrappers implemented in pandas are useful to get an idea how the data looks like. For reusable code or more complex graphs, we'll usually want to directly use Matplotlib and pass the data converted to NumPy arrays.

1.7 Exercises

The following exercises use data files from the data/ folder.

1.7.1 Exercise 1: Basic data manipulations

In this exercise, we will perform some basic data manipulation and plot the results.

1. Load the CSV file FRED_QTR.csv (using sep=','). Set the columns Year and Quarter as (joint) indices.

Hint: You can do this by specifying these column names in the index_col argument of read_csv(). Alternatively, you can cell set_index() once you have loaded the data.

2. This data comes at a quarterly frequency. Convert it to annual values by computing the average values for each year.

 ${\it Hint:}$ Group the data by Year using the groupby () function and compute the mean on the grouped data.

- 3. Compute two new variables from the annualised data and add them to the DataFrame:
 - Inflation, defined as the growth rate of CPI (consumer price index)
 - GDP_growth, defined as the growth rate of GDP
- 4. Drop all rows with missing values (these show up as NaN).

Hint: There is no need to manually filter out NaN values, you can use the dropna() method instead.

5. Plot the columns GDP_growth, Inflation, UNRATE (unemployment rate) and LFPART (labour force participation) using the pandas plotting routines. Use the option subplots=True and layout=(2,2) to create a 2×2 grid. See the documentation for plot () for details.

1.7.2 Exercise 2: Decade averages

Load the FRED data from the CSV file $FRED_QTR.csv$ (using sep=', ') and perform the following tasks:

- 1. Compute the quarterly GDP growth rate and inflation, similar to what you did in the previous exercise.
- 2. Add the column Decade which contains the decade for every observation. Use 1940 to code the 40s, 1950 for the 50s, etc.
- 3. We want to retain only observations for decades for which all 40 quarters are present:
 - 1. Group the data by Decade and count the number of observations using count ().
 - 2. A decade should be kept in the data set only if *all* variables have the full 40 observations.
 - 3. Drop all observations for which this is not the case.
- 4. With the remaining observations, compute the decade averages for quarterly GDP growth, inflation and the unemployment rate (UNRATE). Annualise the GDP growth and inflation figures by multiplying them by 4.
- 5. Create a bar chart that plots these three variables by decade.

1.7.3 Exercise 3: Group averages

Load the universities data from the CSV file universities.csv (using sep=';') and perform the following tasks:

- 1. Group the data by Russell Group membership using the indicator variable Russell. For each group, compute the averages of the following ratios using apply ():
 - The ratio of academic staff (Staff) to students (Students)
 - The ratio of administrative staff (Admin) to students.
 - The budget (Budget) per student in pounds.

Additionally, compute the number of universities is each group.

- 2. Repeat the task using a different approach:
 - 1. Compute the above ratios and add them as new columns to the initial DataFrame.
 - 2. Group the data by Russell Group membership.
 - 3. Compute the mean of each ratio using mean ().
 - 4. Compute the number of universities in each group using count (), and store the result in the column Count in the DataFrame you obtained in the previous step.
- 3. Create a bar chart, plotting the value for universities in and outside of the Russell Group for each of the four statistics computed above.

1.7.4 Exercise 4: Grouping by multiple dimensions

Load the universities data from the CSV file universities.csv (using sep=';') and perform the following tasks:

- 1. Create an indicator Pre1800 which is True for universities founded before the year 1800.
- 2. Group the data by Country and the value of Pre1800.
 - *Hint:* You need to pass a list of column names to groupby ().
- 3. Compute the number of universities for each combination of (Country, Pre1800).

- 4. Create a bar chart showing the number of pre- and post-1800 universities by country (i.e. create four groups of bars, each group showing one bar for pre- and one for post-1800).
- 5. Create a bar chart showing the number of universities by country by pre- and post-1800 period (i.e. create two groups of bars, each group showing four bars, one for each country.)

1.7.5 Exercise 5: Okun's law (advanced)

In this exercise, we will estimate Okun's law on quarterly data for each of the last eight decades.

Okun's law relates unemployment to the output gap. One version (see Jones: Macroeconomics, 2019) is stated as follows:

 $u_t - \overline{u}_t = \alpha + \beta \left(\frac{Y_t - \overline{Y}_t}{\overline{Y}_t} \right)$

where u_t is the unemployment rate, \overline{u}_t is the natural rate of unemployment, Y_t is output (GDP) and \overline{Y}_t is potential output. We will refer to $u_t - \overline{u}_t$ as "cyclical unemployment" and to the term in parenthesis on the right-hand side as the "output gap." Okun's law says that the coefficient β is negative, i.e. cyclical unemployment is higher when the output gap is low (negative) because the economy is in a recession.

Load the FRED data from the CSV file $FRED_QTR.csv$ (using sep=', ') and perform the following tasks:

- 1. Compute the output gap and cyclical unemployment rate as defined above and add them as columns to the DataFrame.
- 2. Assign each observation to a decade as you did in previous exercises.
- 3. Write a function regress_okun() which accepts a DataFrame containing a decade-spefic subsample as the only argument, and estimates the coefficients α (the intercept) and β (the slope) of the above regression equation.

This function should return a DataFrame of a single row and two columns which store the intercept and slope.

Hint: Use NumPy's lstsq() to perform the regression. To regress the dependent variable y on regressors X, you need to call lstsq(X, y). To include the intercept, you will manually have to create X such that the first column contains only ones.

- 4. Group the data by decade and call the apply () method, passing regress_okun you wrote as the argument.
- 5. Plot your results: for each decade, create a scatter plot of the raw data and overlay it with the regression line you estimated.

1.8 Solutions

These solutions illustrate *one* possible way to solve the exercises. Pandas is extremely flexible (maybe too flexible) and allows us to perform these tasks in many different ways, so your implementation might look very different.

1.8.1 Solution for exercise 1

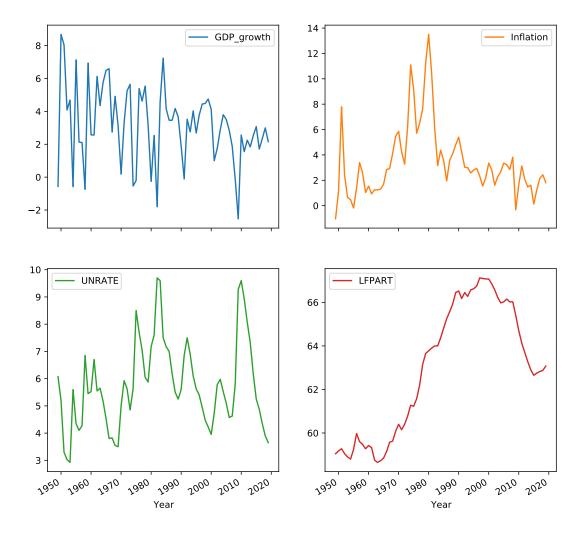
One possible implementation looks as follows:

```
[38]: import pandas as pd
import numpy as np

filepath = '../data/FRED_QTR.csv'

df = pd.read_csv(filepath, sep=',', index_col=['Year', 'Quarter'])
# Alternatively, set index columns later
# df = pd.read_csv(filepath, sep=',')
```

```
# df.set_index(keys=['Year', 'Quarter'], inplace=True)
# Convert to annual frequency
# Group by year
grp = df.groupby(['Year'])
# Compute annual data as mean of quarterly values
df_year = grp.mean()
# Alternative ways to perform the same aggregation:
# df_year = grp.agg('mean')
# df_year = grp.agg(np.mean)
# Compute CPI and GDP growth rates (in percent)
df_year['Inflation'] = df_year['CPI'].diff() / df_year['CPI'].shift() * 100.0
df_year['GDP_growth'] = df_year['GDP'].diff() / df_year['GDP'].shift() * 100.0
# Drop all rows that contain any NaNs
df_year = df_year.dropna(axis=0)
# Columns to plot
varnames = ['GDP_growth', 'Inflation', 'UNRATE', 'LFPART']
df_year.plot.line(y=varnames, subplots=True, layout=(2, 2),
                 sharex=True, figsize=(10, 10))
# Alternatively, we can call plot() directly, which
# defaults to generating a line plot:
# df_year.plot(y=varnames, subplots=True, layout=(2, 2),
     sharex=True, figsize=(10, 10))
```



A few comments:

1. We can set the index column when loading a CSV file by passing the column names as index_col:

```
df = pd.read_csv(filepath, sep=',', index_col=['Year', 'Quarter'])
```

Alternatively, we can first load the CSV file and set the index later:

```
df = pd.read_csv(filepath, sep=',')
df.set_index(keys=['Year', 'Quarter'], inplace=True)
```

- 2. There are several ways to compute the means of grouped data:
 - 1. We can call mean () on the group object directly:

```
df_year = grp.mean()
```

2. Alternatively, we can call agg () and pass it the aggregation routine that should be applied:

```
df_year = grp.agg('mean')
df_year = grp.agg(np.mean)
```

Here we again have multiple options: pandas understands 'mean' if passed as a string (which might not be the case for some other functions), or we pass an actual function such as np.mean.

3. The easiest way to compute differences between adjacent rows is to use the diff() method, which returns $x_t - x_{t-1}$. Pandas then automatically matches the correct values and sets the first observation to NaN as there is no preceding value to compute the difference.

To compute a growth rate $(x_t - x_{t-1})/x_{t-1}$, we additionally need to lag a variable to get the correct period in the denominator. In pandas this is achieved using the shift () method (which defaults to shifting by 1 period).

1.8.2 Solution for exercise 2

This time we do not specify index_cols when reading in the CSV data since we need Year as a regular variable, not as the index.

We then compute the decade for each year, using the fact that // performs division with integer truncation. As an example, 1951 // 10 is 195, and (1951 // 10) * 10 = 1950, which we use to represent the 1950s.

```
[39]: import pandas as pd
      filepath = '../data/FRED_QTR.csv'
      df = pd.read_csv(filepath, sep=',')
      # Compute GDP growth rates, inflation (in percent)
      df['GDP_growth'] = df['GDP'].diff() / df['GDP'].shift() * 100.0
      df['Inflation'] = df['CPI'].diff() / df['CPI'].shift() * 100.0
      # Assign decade using // to truncate division to
      # integer part. So we have 194x // 10 = 194 for any x.
      df['Decade'] = (df['Year'] // 10) * 10
      grp = df.groupby(['Decade'])
      # Print number of obs. by decade
      print(grp.count())
      # Create series that contains True for each
      # decade if all variables have 40 observations.
      use_decade = (grp.count() == 40).all(axis=1)
      # Convert series to DataFrame, assign column name 'Keep'
      df decade = use decade.to frame('Keep')
      # merge into original DataFrame, matching rows on value
      # of column 'Decade'
      df = df.merge(df_decade, on='Decade')
      # Restrict data only to rows which are part of complete decade
      df = df.loc[df['Keep'], :].copy()
      # Drop 'Keep' column
      del df['Keep']
      # Compute average growth rates and unemployment rate by decade
      grp = df.groupby(['Decade'])
      df_avg = grp[['GDP_growth', 'Inflation', 'UNRATE']].mean()
      # Convert to (approximate) annualised growth rates
      df_avg['GDP_growth'] *= 4.0
      df_avg['Inflation'] *= 4.0
```

	Year	Quarter	GDP	CPI	UNRATE	LFPART	GDPPOT	NROU	GDP_growth	\
Decade										
1940	8	8	8	8	8	8	4	4	7	
1950	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
1960	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
1970	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
1980	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
1990	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
2000	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
2010	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	

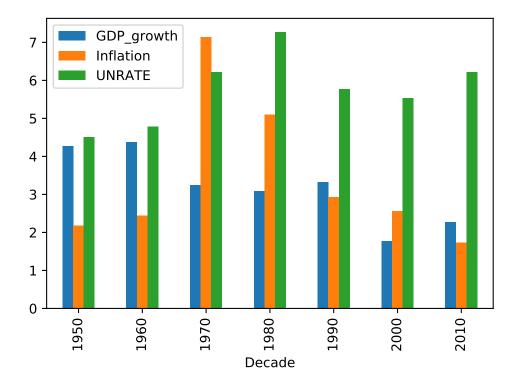
Inflation
7
40
40
40
40
40
40
40

The tricky part is to keep only observations for "complete" decades that have 40 quarters of data. We see that this is not the case for the 1940s:

- 1. We group by Decade and use count () to determine the number of non-missing observations for each variable.
- 2. count () == 40 evaluates to True for some variable if it has 40 observations.
- 3. We then use all() to aggregate across all variables, i.e. we require 40 observations for every variable to keep the decade.
- 4. Finally, we merge the indicator whether a decade should be kept in the data set using merge(), where we match on the value of the column Decade. Note that the argument to merge() must be a DataFrame, so we first have to convert our indicator data.
- 5. Finally, we keep only those observations which have a flag that is True.

The rest of the exercise is straightforward as it just repeats what we have done previously. You can create the bar chart directly with pandas as follows:

```
[40]: df_avg.plot.bar(y=['GDP_growth', 'Inflation', 'UNRATE'])
[40]: <AxesSubplot:xlabel='Decade'>
```



1.8.3 Solution for exercise 3

We first read in the CSV file, specifying '; ' as the field separator:

```
[41]: import pandas as pd
import numpy as np

# Load CSV file
filepath = '../data/universities.csv'
df = pd.read_csv(filepath, sep=';')
```

For the first task we use apply () to create a new Series object for each ratio of interest.

We compute the ratios for each institution which will result in NaNs if either the numerator of denominator is missing. We thus use np.nanmean() to compute averages, ignoring any NaNs.

Finally, we combine all Series into a DataFrame. We do this by specifying the data passed to DataFrame() as a dictionary, since then we can specify the column names as keys.

```
[42]: # Variant 1
      # Compute means using apply()
      grp = df.groupby(['Russell'])
      # Create Series objects with the desired means
      staff = grp.apply(lambda x: np.nanmean(x['Staff'] / x['Students']))
      admin = grp.apply(lambda x: np.nanmean(x['Admin'] / x['Students']))
      # Budget in millions of pounds
      budget = grp.apply(lambda x: np.nanmean(x['Budget'] / x['Students']))
      # Convert to pounds
      budget *= 1.0e6
      # Count number of institutions in each group.
      # We can use the 'Russell' column for this because it has no
      # missing data.
      count = grp['Russell'].count()
      # Create a new DataFrame. Each column is a Series object.
      df_all = pd.DataFrame({'Staff_Student': staff,
                              'Admin_Student': admin,
                              'Budget_Student': budget,
                              'Count': count})
      df_all
```

```
[42]: Staff_Student Admin_Student Budget_Student Count Russell 0 0.096219 0.147762 16847.834366 6 1 0.155131 0.169079 35406.453649 17
```

For the second task, we first insert additional columns which contain the ratios of interest for each university.

We then drop all unused columns, group by the Russell indicator and compute the means by directly calling mean () on the group object.

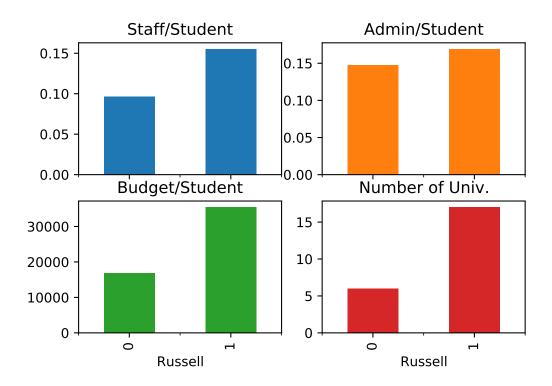
```
[43]: # Variant 2:
    # Compute ratios first, apply aggregation later

# Create new variables directly in original DataFrame
    df['Staff_Student'] = df['Staff'] / df['Students']
    df['Admin_Student'] = df['Admin'] / df['Students']
    # Budget in pounds (original Budget is in million pounds)
    df['Budget_Student'] = df['Budget'] / df['Students'] * 1.0e6
```

```
# Keep only newly constructed ratios
columns_keep = [name for name in df.columns
               if name.endswith('_Student')]
# Also keep Russell indicator
columns_keep += ['Russell']
df = df[columns_keep].copy()
# Aggregate by Russell indicator
grp = df.groupby(['Russell'])
# Count number of institutions in each group.
# We can use the 'Russell' column for this because it has no
# missing data.
count = grp['Russell'].count()
df_all = grp.mean()
# Add counter
df_all['Count'] = count
df_all
```

```
[43]: Staff_Student Admin_Student Budget_Student Count Russell 0 0.096219 0.147762 16847.834366 6 1 0.155131 0.169079 35406.453649 17
```

We plot the results using pandas's bar () function. Since the data is of vastly different magnitudes, we specify sharey=False so that each panel will have its own scaling on the *y*-axis.



1.8.4 Solution for exercise 4

We create an indicator variable called Pre1800 which is set to True whenever the founding year in column Founded is lower than 1800.

We then group the data by Country and Pre1800 and count the number of universities in each group using count ().

```
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Load CSV file
filepath = '../data/universities.csv'
df = pd.read_csv(filepath, sep=';')

# Create mask for founding period
df['Pre1800'] = (df['Founded'] < 1800)

# Create group by country and founding period;
grp = df.groupby(['Country', 'Pre1800'])

# Number of universities by country and founding period.
# Since we are grouping by two attributes, which will create a
# Series with a multi-level (hierarchical) index
count = grp['Institution'].count()</pre>
```

```
[45]: Country Pre1800
England False 8
True 5
Northern Ireland False 1
Scotland False 3
True 4
```

```
Wales False 2
Name: Institution, dtype: int64
```

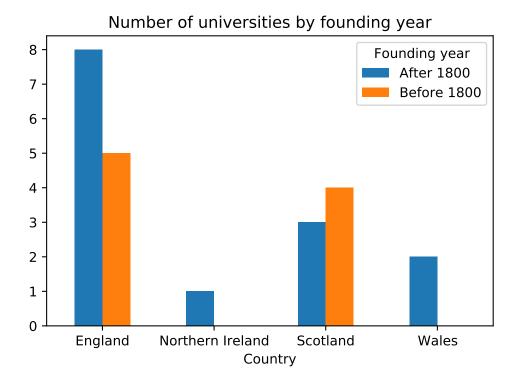
The resulting Series only contains values for those combinations that are actually present in the data. For example, the combination (Wales, True) does not show up because there are no Welsh universities founded before 1800 in our sample. We will have to "complete" the data and add zero entries in all such cases.

First, we create a DataFrame with countries in rows and the number of universities for the pre- and post-1800 periods in columns. To accomplish this, we need to pivot the second row index using the unstack() method. The level=-1 argument tells it to use the last row index, and fill_value=0 will assign zeros to all elements that were not present in the initial DataFrame, such as the combination (Wales, True).

Whenever we use pandas's built-in plotting functions, these use index names and labels to automatically label the graph. We therefore first have to assign these objects "pretty" names.

We can then generate the bar chart as follows:

```
[47]: # Create bar chart by country
title = 'Number of universities by founding year'
# pass rot=0 to undo the rotation of x-tick labels
# which pandas applies by default
df_count.plot.bar(xlabel='Country', rot=0, title=title)
```

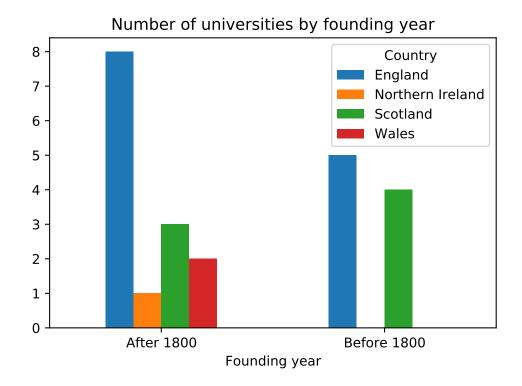


Note how the legend title is automatically set to the column index name and the legend labels use the column index labels.

We create the second DataFrame with the founding period in rows and country names in columns in exactly the same way, but now call unstack (level=0) so that the first index level will be pivoted.

```
[49]: # Create bar chart by founding year
# pass rot=0 to undo the rotation of x-tick labels
# which pandas applies by default
df_count.plot.bar(rot=0, title=title)
```

[49]: <AxesSubplot:title={'center':'Number of universities by founding year'},
 xlabel='Founding year'>



1.8.5 Solution for exercise 5

This exercise is quite involved, so we will discuss it in parts. First, we write the function that will be called by apply() to process sub-sets of the data which belong to a single decade:

```
[50]: def regress_okun(x):
           # x is a DataFrame, restricted to rows for the current decade
          # Extract dependent and regressor variables
          outcome = x['unempl_gap'].to_numpy()
          GDP_gap = x['GDP_gap'].to_numpy()
          # Regressor matrix including intercept
          regr = np.ones((len(GDP_gap), 2))
          # overwrite second column with output gap
          regr[:,1] = GDP_gap
          # Solve least-squares problem (pass rcond=None to avoid a warning)
          coefs, *rest = np.linalg.lstsq(regr, outcome, rcond=None)
           # Construct DataFrame which will be returned to apply()
          # Convert data to 1 x 2 matrix
          data = coefs[None]
          columns = ['Const', 'GDP_gap']
          df_out = pd.DataFrame(data, columns=columns)
          return df_out
```

This function is passed in a single argument which is a DataFrame restricted to the sub-sample that is currently being processed.

• Our task is to perform the required calculations and to return the result as a DataFrame. apply () then glues together all decade-specific DataFrames to form the result of the operation.

- We first extract the relevant variables as NumPy arrays, and we create a regressor matrix which has ones in the first column. This column represents the intercept.
- We invoke lstsq() to run the regression. lstsq() returns several arguments which we mop up in the tuple *rest since we are only interested in the regression coefficients.
 - Note that we wouldn't be using lstsq() to run OLS on a regular basis, but it's sufficient for this use case.
- Finally, we build the DataFrame to be returned by this function. It has only one row (since we ran only one regression) and two columns, one for each regression coefficient.

This was the hard part. We now need to perform some standard manipulations to prepare the data:

- 1. We construct the output gap (in percent), which we store in the column GDP gap.
- 2. We construct the cyclical unemployment rate and store it in the column unempl_gap.
- 3. We determine the decade each observation belongs to using the same code as in previous exercises.
- 4. We then drop all unused variables from the DataFrame and also all observations which contain missing values.

Lastly, we can call apply () to run the regression for each decade.

```
[51]: import pandas as pd
      import numpy as np
      import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
      # Load CSV file
      filepath = '../data/FRED_QTR.csv'
      df = pd.read_csv(filepath, sep=',')
      # Generate output gap (in percent)
      df['GDP_gap'] = (df['GDP'] - df['GDPPOT']) / df['GDPPOT'] * 100.0
      # Generate deviations of unempl. rate from natural unempl. rate
      df['unempl_gap'] = df['UNRATE'] - df['NROU']
      # Assign decade using // to truncate division to
      # integer part. So we have 194x // 10 = 194 for any x.
      df['Decade'] = (df['Year'] // 10) * 10
      # Keep only variables of interest
      df = df[['Decade', 'GDP_gap', 'unempl_gap']]
      # Drop rows with any missing obs.
      df = df.dropna(axis=0)
      # Group by decade
      grp = df.groupby(['Decade'])
      # Apply regression routine to sub-set of data for each decade
      df_reg = grp.apply(regress_okun)
      # Get rid of second row index introduced by apply()
      df_reg = df_reg.reset_index(level=-1, drop=True)
      # Display intercept and slope coefficients
       # estimated for each decade.
      df_req
```

```
[51]: Const GDP_gap
Decade

1940 -0.259986 -0.567257
1950 -0.277104 -0.494637
1960 -0.331665 -0.467206
1970 -0.032063 -0.398751
1980 -0.178001 -0.666688
```

```
1990 -0.102465 -0.489427
2000 -0.355138 -0.723567
2010 -0.279333 -0.983768
```

The following code creates 8 panels of scatter plots showing the raw data and overlays a regression line for each decade.

The code is somewhat more involved than usual because we have 9 panels but only 8 sets of data to be plotted, and we want to add axes labels only for those panels that are on the left and lower boundaries.

```
[52]: # Number of plots (= number of decades)
      Nplots = len(df_reg)
      # Fix number of columns, determine rows as needed
      ncol = 3
      nrow = int(np.ceil(Nplots / ncol))
      fig, axes = plt.subplots(nrow, ncol, sharey=True, sharex=True,
                                figsize=(8, 8))
      for i, ax in enumerate(axes.flatten()):
          # skip if we are out of data (we have 9 panels, but only 8 decades)
          if i >= Nplots:
              # Turn off frame, axes, etc.
              ax.get_xaxis().set_visible(False)
              ax.get_yaxis().set_visible(False)
              ax.set_frame_on(False)
              break
          # decade in current iteration
          decade = df_reg.index.values[i]
          # restrict DataFrame to decade-specific data
          dfi = df.loc[df['Decade'] == decade]
          # Scatter plot of raw data
          ax.scatter(dfi['GDP_gap'], dfi['unempl_gap'], color='steelblue',
                     alpha=0.7, label='Raw data')
          # Extract regression coefficients
          const = df_reg.loc[decade, 'Const']
          slope = df_reg.loc[decade, 'GDP_gap']
          # plot regression line:
          # We need to provide two points to define the line to be plotted.
          ax.axline((0.0, const), (1.0, const+slope), color='red',
                    lw=2.0, label='Regression line')
          # Add label containing the current decade
          ax.text(0.95, 0.95, f"{decade}'s", transform=ax.transAxes,
                  va='top', ha='right')
          # Add legend in the first panel only
          if i == 0:
              ax.legend(loc='lower left', frameon=False)
          \# Add x- and y-labels, but only for those panels
          # that are on the left/lower boundary of the figure
          if i >= nrow * (ncol - 1):
              ax.set_xlabel('Output gap (%)')
          if (i % 3) == 0:
              ax.set_ylabel('Cycl. unempl. rate (%-points)')
      fig.suptitle("Okun's law")
```

Okun's law

