

## Using merge\_asof() to create dataset - Corrected

The screenshot shows a web browser window with a DataCamp course page. The browser's address bar shows the URL: `campus.datacamp.com/courses/joining-data-with-pandas/merging-ordered-and-time-series-data?ex=7`. The page title is "Using merge\_asof() to create dataset". The interface includes a sidebar with "Exercise" and "Instructions" tabs. The main content area displays the exercise instructions and a code editor. The instructions state: "The merge\_asof() function can be used to create datasets where you have a table of start and stop dates, and you want to use them to create a flag in another table. You have been given gdp, which is a table of quarterly GDP values of the US during the 1980s. Additionally, the table recession has been given to you. It holds the starting date of every US recession since 1980, and the date when the recession was declared to be over. Use merge\_asof() to merge the tables and create a status flag if a quarter was during a recession. Finally, to check your work, plot the data in a bar chart. The tables gdp and recession have been loaded for you." The code editor shows the following Python code:

```
1 # Merge gdp and recession on date using merge_asof()
2 gdp_recession = pd.merge_asof(
3     gdp, recession,
4     on='date',
5     # Create a list based on the row value of gdp_recession['econ_status']
6     is_recession = ['r' if s == 'recession' else 'g' for s in gdp_recession['econ_status']]
7 )
8 # Plot a bar chart of gdp_recession
9 gdp_recession.plot(kind='bar', x='date', color='r', rot=90)
10 plt.show()
```

Below the code editor is a "Python Shell" section with a "Run Code" button and a "Submit Answer" button. The bottom of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with the date 04/12/2024 and time 12:55.

### Question:

Using `merge_asof()`, merge `gdp` and `recession` on `date`, with `gdp` as the left table. Save to the variable `gdp_recession`. Create a list using a list comprehension and a conditional expression, named `is_recession`, where for each row if the `gdp_recession['econ_status']` value is equal to 'recession' then enter 'r' else 'g'. Using `gdp_recession`, plot a bar chart of `gdp` versus `date`, setting the `color` argument equal to `is_recession`.

### Answer:

```
# Merge gdp and recession on date using merge_asof
gdp_recession = pd.merge_asof(
    gdp, recession,
    on='date'
)

# Create a list based on the row value of gdp_recession['econ_status']
is_recession = [
    'r' if s == 'recession' else 'g'
    for s in gdp_recession['econ_status']
]

# Plot a bar chart of gdp_recession
```

```
gdp_recession.plot(  
    kind='bar',  
    x='date',  
    y='gdp',  
    color=is_recession,  
    rot=90  
)  
plt.show()
```

### Code Explanation:

1. `gdp_recession = pd.merge_asof(...)`:

This line merges the `gdp` and `recession` dataframes on the `'date'` column using the `'merge_asof'` function. The `'gdp'` dataframe is set as the left table, aligning rows based on the nearest previous date.

2. `is_recession = [...]`:

This line creates a list comprehension that iterates through each value in the `'econ_status'` column of the `gdp_recession` dataframe. If the value is `'recession'`, `'r'` is added to the list; otherwise, `'g'` is added.

3. `gdp_recession.plot(...)`:

This line creates a bar chart of the `'gdp'` values versus `'date'` from the `gdp_recession` dataframe. The `'color'` argument is set to the `is_recession` list, coloring the bars red (`'r'`) or green (`'g'`) based on the economic status.