

# Glossary

## Advanced Data Analytics

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## Terms and definitions from Course 2

### A

**agg():** A pandas groupby method that allows the user to apply multiple calculations to groups of data

**Algorithm:** A set of instructions for solving a problem or accomplishing a task

**Aliasing:** A process that allows the user to assign an alternate name—or alias—to something

**append():** A method that adds an element to the end of a list

**Argument:** Information given to a function in its parentheses

**Assignment:** The process of storing a value in a variable

**Attribute:** A value associated with an object or class which is referenced by name using dot notation

### B

**Boolean:** A data type that has only two possible values, usually true or false

**Boolean masking:** A filtering technique that overlays a Boolean grid onto a dataframe in order to select only the values in the dataframe that align with the True values of the grid

**Branching:** The ability of a program to alter its execution sequence

**break:** A keyword that lets a user escape a loop without triggering any ELSE statement that follows it in the loop

## C

**Cells:** The modular code input and output fields into which Jupyter Notebooks are partitioned

**Class:** An object's data type that bundles data and functionality together

**Comparator:** An operator that compares two values and produces Boolean values (True/False)

**Computer programming:** The process of giving instructions to a computer to perform an action or set of actions

**concat():** A pandas function that combines data either by adding it horizontally as new columns for existing rows or vertically as new rows for existing columns

**Concatenate:** To link or join together

**CSV file:** A plaintext file that uses commas to separate distinct values from one another; Stands for "comma-separated values"

## D

**Data structure:** A collection of data values or objects that contain different data types

**Data type:** An attribute that describes a piece of data based on its values, its programming language, or the operations it can perform

**DataFrame:** A two-dimensional, labeled data structure with rows and columns

**def:** A keyword that defines a function at the start of the function block

**dict():** A function used to create a dictionary

**Dictionary:** A data structure that consists of a collection of key-value pairs

**difference():** A function that finds the elements present in one set but not the other

**Docstring:** A string at the beginning of a function's body that summarizes the function's behavior and explains its arguments and return values

**Dot notation:** How to access the methods and attributes that belong to an instance of a class

**dtype:** A NumPy attribute used to check the data type of the contents of an array

**Dynamic typing:** Variables that can point to objects of any data type

## E

**elif:** A reserved keyword that executes subsequent conditions when the previous conditions are not true

**else:** A reserved keyword that executes when preceding conditions evaluate as False

**Escape character:** A character that changes the typical behavior of the characters that follow it

**Explicit conversion:** The process of converting a data type of an object to a required data type

**Expression:** A combination of numbers, symbols, or other variables that produce a result when evaluated

## F

**Float:** A data type that represents numbers that contain decimals

**For loop:** A piece of code that iterates over a sequence of values

**format():** A string method that formats and inserts specific substrings into designated places within a larger string

**Function:** A body of reusable code for performing specific processes or tasks

## G

**Global variable:** A variable that can be accessed from anywhere in a program or script

**groupby():** A pandas DataFrame method that groups rows of the dataframe together based on their values at one or more columns, which allows further analysis of the groups

## I

**if:** A reserved keyword that sets up a condition in Python

**iloc[]:** A type of notation in pandas that indicates when the user wants to select by integer-location-based position

**Immutability:** The concept that a data structure or element's values can never be altered or updated

**Immutable data type:** A data type in which the values can never be altered or updated

**Implicit conversion:** The process Python uses to automatically convert one data type to another without user involvement

**Import statement:** A statement that uses the import keyword to load an external library, package, module, or function into the computing environment

**index():** A string method that outputs the index number of a character in a string

**Indexing:** A way to refer to the individual items within an iterable by their relative position

**Inner join:** A way of combining data such that only the keys that are in both dataframes get included in the merge

**insert():** A function that takes an index as the first parameter and an element as the second parameter, then inserts the element into a list at the given index

**Integer:** A data type used to represent whole numbers without fractions

**intersection():** A function that finds the elements that two sets have in common

**items():** A dictionary method to retrieve both the dictionary's keys and values

**Iterable:** An object that's looped, or iterated, over

**Iteration:** The repeated execution of a set of statements, where one iteration is the single execution of a block of code

## J

**Jupyter Notebook:** An open-source web application for creating and sharing documents containing live code, mathematical formulas, visualizations, and text

## K

**Keys:** The shared points of reference between different dataframes

**keys():** A dictionary method to retrieve only the dictionary's keys

**Keyword:** A special word in a programming language that is reserved for a specific purpose and that can only be used for that purpose

## L

**Left join:** A way of combining data such that all of the keys in the left dataframe are included, even if they aren't in the right dataframe

**Library:** A reusable collection of code; also referred to as a "package"

**List:** A data structure that helps store and manipulate an ordered collection of items

**List comprehension:** Formulaic creation of a new list based on the values in an existing list

**loc[]:** Notation that is used to select pandas rows and columns by name

**Logical operator:** An operator that connects multiple statements together and performs complex comparisons

**Loop:** A block of code used to carry out iterations

## M

**Markdown:** A markup language that lets the user write formatted text in a coding environment or plain-text editor

**matplotlib:** A library for creating static, animated, and interactive visualizations in Python

**merge():** A pandas function that joins two dataframes together; it only combines data by extending along axis one horizontally

**Method:** A function that belongs to a class and typically performs an action or operation

**Modularity:** The ability to write code in separate components that work together and that can be reused for other programs

**Module:** A simple Python file containing a collection of functions and global variables

**Modulo:** An operator that returns the remainder when one number is divided by another

**Mutability:** The ability to change the internal state of a data structure

## N

**N-dimensional array:** The core data object of NumPy; also referred to as “ndarray”

**Naming conventions:** Consistent guidelines that describe the content, creation date, and version of a file in its name

**Naming restrictions:** Rules built into the syntax of a programming language

**NaN:** How null values are represented in pandas; stands for “not a number”

**ndim:** A NumPy attribute used to check the number of dimensions of an array

**Nested loop:** A loop inside of another loop

**NumPy:** An essential library that contains multidimensional array and matrix data structures and functions to manipulate them

## O

**Object:** An instance of a class; a fundamental building block of Python

**Object-oriented programming:** A programming system that is based around objects which can contain both data and code that manipulates that data

**Outer join:** A way of combining data such that all of the keys from both dataframes get included in the merge

## P

**pandas:** A powerful library built on top of NumPy that’s used to manipulate and analyze tabular data

**pop():** A method that extracts an element from a list by removing it at a given index

**Programming languages:** The words and symbols used to write instructions for computers to follow

## R

**range():** A Python function that returns a sequence of numbers starting from zero, increments by 1 by default, and stops before the given number

**Refactoring:** The process of restructuring code while maintaining its original functionality

**remove():** A method that removes an element from a list

**reshape():** A NumPy method used to change the shape of an array

**return:** A reserved keyword in Python that makes a function produce new results which are saved for later use

**Reusability:** The capability to define code once and using it many times without having to rewrite it

**Right join:** A way of combining data such that all the keys in the right dataframe are included—even if they aren't in the left dataframe

## S

**Seaborn:** A visualization library based on matplotlib that provides a simpler interface for working with common plots and graphs

**Self-documenting code:** Code written in a way that is readable and makes its purpose clear

**Sequence:** A positionally ordered collection of items

**Series:** A one-dimensional, labeled array where the data type must be the same for all the data in a given series

**Set:** A data structure in Python that contains only unordered, non-interchangeable elements

**set():** A function that takes an iterable as an argument and returns a new set object

**shape:** A NumPy attribute used to check the shape of an array

**String:** A sequence of characters and punctuation that contains textual information

**String slice:** A portion of a string that can contain more than one character; also referred to as a substring

**symmetric\_difference():** A function that finds elements from both sets that are mutually not present in the other

**Syntax:** The structure of code words, symbols, placement, and punctuation

## T

**Tabular data:** Data that is in the form of a table, with rows and columns

**Tuple:** An immutable sequence that can contain elements of any data type

**tuple():** A function that transforms input into tuples

**type():** A function used to identify the type of data in a list

**Typecasting:** Converting data from one type to another (see **explicit conversion**)

## U

**union():** A function that finds all the elements from both sets

## V

**values():** A dictionary method to retrieve only the dictionary's values

**Variable:** A named container which stores values in a reserved location in the computer's memory

**Vectorization:** A process that enables operations to be performed on multiple components of a data object at the same time

## W

**While loop:** A loop that instructs the computer to continuously execute the code based on the value of a condition



