

Ideation Phase 2 Innovation

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Consider incorporating data visualization techniques to showcase historical temperature and humidity trends.

Time series data visualization with Python is an essential aspect of data analysis that involves representing data points collected over time in a visually intuitive manner. It allows us to uncover patterns, trends, and anomalies, facilitating better decision-making and insights. Time series data visualization Python refers to a collection of data points collected and recorded at regular intervals over time. It plays a crucial role in various domains, such as finance, economics, weather forecasting, and sales forecasting. Analyzing and visualizing time series data enables us to identify patterns, trends, and anomalies, leading to better decision-making and insights.

What is a Time Series?

Time series refers to a sequence of data points that are collected, recorded, or observed at regular intervals over a specific period of time. In a time series, each data point is associated with a specific timestamp or time period, which allows for the chronological organization of the data.

Time series data can be found in various domains and industries, including finance, economics, meteorology, sales, stock markets, healthcare, and more. It is used to

analyze historical patterns, identify trends, forecast future values, and understand the behavior of a phenomenon over time.

Time series data can be either continuous or discrete. One can easily visualize time series data using python. Continuous time series data represents measurements that can take any value within a range, such as temperature readings or stock prices. Discrete-time series data, on the other hand, represents measurements that are limited to specific values or categories, such as the number of sales per day or customer ratings.

Analyzing and visualizing time series data plays a crucial role in gaining insights, making predictions, and understanding the underlying dynamics of a system or process over time.

Types of Time Series Data

Time series data in data visualization can be classified into two main types based on the nature of the data: continuous and discrete.

A. Continuous Data

Continuous time series data refers to measurements or observations that can take any value within a specified range. It is characterized by a continuous and uninterrupted flow of data points over time. Continuous time series data is commonly found in various domains, such as:

- **Temperature Data:** Continuous temperature recordings collected at regular intervals, such as hourly or daily measurements.
- **Stock Market Data:** Continuous data representing the prices or values of stocks, which are recorded throughout trading hours.
- **Sensor Data:** Measurements from sensors that record continuous variables like pressure, humidity, or air quality at frequent intervals.

- **Financial Data:** Continuous data related to financial metrics like revenue, sales, or profit, which are tracked over time.
- **Environmental Data:** Continuous data collected from environmental monitoring devices, such as weather stations, to track variables like wind speed, rainfall, or pollution levels.
- **Physiological Data:** Continuous data capturing physiological parameters like heart rate, blood pressure, or glucose levels recorded at regular intervals.

Continuous time series data is typically visualized using techniques such as line plots, area charts, or smooth plots. These visualization methods allow us to observe trends, fluctuations, and patterns in the data over time, aiding in understanding the behavior and dynamics of the underlying phenomenon.

B. Discrete Data

Discrete time series data refers to measurements or observations that are limited to specific values or categories. Unlike continuous data, discrete data does not have a continuous range of possible values but instead consists of distinct and separate data points. Discrete time series data is commonly encountered in various domains, including:

- **Count Data:** Data representing the number of occurrences or events within a specific time. Examples include the number of daily sales, the number of customer inquiries per month, or the number of website visits per hour.
- **Categorical Data:** Data that falls into distinct categories or classes. This can include variables such as customer segmentation, product types, or survey responses with predefined response options.
- **Binary Data:** Data that has only two possible outcomes or states. For instance, a time series tracking whether a machine is functioning (1) or not (0) at each time point.
- **Rating Scales:** Data obtained from surveys or feedback forms where respondents provide ratings on a discrete scale, such as a Likert scale.

Discrete time series data is often visualized using techniques such as bar charts, histograms, or stacked area charts. These visualizations help in understanding the distribution, changes, and patterns within the discrete data over time. By examining the frequency or proportion of different categories or values, analysts can gain insights into trends and patterns within the data.

Ways for Time Series Data Visualization

To effectively visualize time series data, various visualization techniques can be employed. Let's explore some popular visualization methods:

1. **Tabular Visualization:** Tabular visualization presents time series data in a structured table format, with each row representing a specific time period and columns representing different variables or measurements. It provides a concise overview of the data but may not capture trends or patterns as effectively as graphical visualizations.
2. **1D Plot of Measurement Times:** This type of visualization represents the measurement times along a one-dimensional axis, such as a timeline. It helps in understanding the temporal distribution of data points and identifying any temporal patterns.
3. **1D Plot of Measurement Values:** A 1D plot of measurement values display the variation in data values over time along a single axis. Line plots and step plots are commonly used techniques for visualizing continuous time series data, while bar charts or dot plots can be used for discrete data.
4. **1D Color Plot of Measurement Values:** In this visualization technique, the variation in measurement values is represented using colors on a one-dimensional axis. It enables the quick identification of high or low values and provides an intuitive overview of the data.
5. **Bubble Plot:** Bubble plots represent time series data using bubbles, where each bubble represents a data point with its size or color encoding a specific measurement value. This visualization method allows the simultaneous representation of multiple variables and their evolution over time.

6. **Scatter Plot:** Scatter plots display the relationship between two variables by plotting data points as individual dots on a Cartesian plane. Time series data can be visualized by representing one variable on the x-axis and another on the y-axis.
7. **Linear Line Plot:** Linear line plots connect consecutive data points with straight lines, emphasizing the trend and continuity of the data over time.
8. **Linear Step Plot:** Linear step plots also connect consecutive data points, but with vertical and horizontal lines, resulting in a stepped appearance. This visualization is useful when tracking changes that occur instantaneously at specific time points.
9. **Linear Smooth Plot:** Linear smooth plots apply a smoothing algorithm to the data, resulting in a continuous curve that captures the overall trend while reducing noise or fluctuations. It helps in visualizing long-term patterns more clearly.
10. **Area Chart:** Area charts fill the area between the line representing the data and the x-axis, emphasizing the cumulative value or distribution over time. They are commonly used to visualize stacked time series data or to show the composition of a variable over time.
11. **Horizon Chart:** Horizon charts condense time series data into a compact, horizontally layered representation. They are particularly useful when comparing multiple time series data on a single chart, optimizing screen space usage.
12. **Bar Chart:** Bar charts represent discrete time series data using rectangular bars, with the height of each bar indicating the value of a specific measurement. They are effective in comparing values between different time periods or categories.
13. **Histogram:** Histograms display the distribution of continuous or discrete time series data by dividing the range of values into equal intervals (bins) and representing the frequency or count of data points falling within each bin. Here, [Business Intelligence and Visualization training](#) will help you get mentored by international Tableau, BI, TIBCO, and Data Visualization experts and represent data through insightful visuals.

Best Platforms to Visualize Data

Several powerful platforms can aid in visualizing time series data Visualization effectively. Let us explore some of the top platforms and how they support time series visualization:

1. Microsoft Power BI

Microsoft Power BI is a popular [business intelligence platform](#) that provides a wide range of data visualization capabilities. It offers various visualizations specific to time series data, such as line charts, area charts, scatter plots, and custom visuals from the Power BI marketplace. Power BI allows users to connect to different data sources, apply transformations, and create interactive dashboards and reports.

How to Visualize Time Series Data in Microsoft Power BI?

To visualize time series data in Power BI, follow these steps:

- Import the time series data into Power BI.
- Choose the appropriate visualization type (e.g., line chart, area chart) and add the relevant fields to the visualization.
- Configure axes, legends, and tooltips to provide meaningful insights.
- Apply filters, slicers, or drill-through functionalities to interact with the data dynamically.
- Customize the visual appearance and layout of the report or dashboard.
- Publish and share the visualizations with others.
- To present the time series better visually, below is the best tool used for it

2. Tableau

Tableau is a powerful data visualization and analytics platform widely used for exploring and presenting data. It offers a comprehensive set of features to visualize time series data effectively, including line charts, area charts, heatmaps, and maps.

Tableau supports interactive filtering, drill-down, and animation features to enhance the exploration of time-based trends. These are just a few examples, and there are many other tools and libraries available depending on your specific requirements and programming language preferences. Also, you can go through [KnowledgeHut's Business Intelligence and Visualization classes](#) and get mentored by the best of experts.

How to Visualize Time Series in Tableau?

To visualize time series data in Tableau, follow these steps:

- Connect to the time series data source within Tableau.
- Drag and drop the desired fields onto the workspace.
- Choose the appropriate visualization type from the available options.
- Customize the visualization by adjusting axes, adding reference lines, or applying color schemes.
- Create interactive features such as filters, parameters, or actions to enable dynamic exploration of the data.
- Design a visually appealing dashboard or story to present the insights effectively.
- Share the visualizations with others using Tableau Server, Tableau Public, or other sharing options.
- R: R is a widely used programming language and software environment for statistical computing and graphics. It offers numerous packages and libraries specifically designed for time series analysis and visualization. Popular packages like ggplot2, plotly, and graphs provide a wide range of functions and capabilities for creating interactive and publication-quality time series visualizations.

3. R

R is a popular open-source programming language and software which we mainly use for statistical computing and graphics. It provides us with a wide range of tools

and libraries for data manipulation, analysis, and visualization. Here are some ways and techniques to visualize time series in R:

How to Visualize Time Series in R?

To visualize time series data visualization in R, follow these steps:

- Import the time series data into R using appropriate data structures such as data frames or time series objects.
- Install and load the required packages for time series visualization (e.g., ggplot2, plotly).
- Use functions from the chosen package to create the desired visualizations, such as line plots, area charts, or interactive plots.
- Customize the visual appearance, labels, and annotations.
- Add interactivity, tooltips, or animations to enhance the exploration of the data.
- Export the visualizations to various formats or integrate them into reports or presentations.
- Excel: Excel, a widely used spreadsheet software, also offers basic time series visualization capabilities. While not as advanced as dedicated data visualization platforms or programming languages, Excel provides various chart types that can effectively represent time series data, such as line charts, bar charts, and scatter plots.

4. Excel

Excel is a popular spreadsheet software and a great tool for data analysis. It allows users to perform various tasks related to data organization, analysis, and presentation. Here are some ways to visualize Time series in Excel:

How to Visualize Time Series in Excel?

To visualize time series data in Excel, follow these steps:

- Import the time series data into an Excel worksheet.
- Select the data range and choose the appropriate chart type from the Excel charting options.
- Customize the chart by adjusting axes, adding labels, or applying formatting options.
- Add additional series or data points to represent different variables or measurements.
- Apply filtering, sorting, or conditional formatting to interact with the data dynamically.
- Incorporate the chart into an Excel dashboard or report.

Time Series Data Visualization Examples

Let us explore some examples of time series data visualizations:

- **Gantt Charts:** Gantt charts are widely used to visualize project schedules or timelines. They display tasks or events along a horizontal timeline, with bars representing the start and end dates of each task. Gantt charts provide a clear overview of project progress, dependencies, and resource allocation over time.
- **Line Graphs:** Line graphs are effective for visualizing continuous time series data. They connect data points with straight lines, allowing us to observe trends, seasonality, or irregularities over time.
- **Heatmap:** Heatmaps represent time series data using color intensity in a grid format. They are useful for visualizing patterns, correlations, or anomalies in multi-dimensional time series data.
- **Map:** Maps can be employed to visualize time series data geographically. By plotting data points on a map, we can observe spatial patterns or changes in variables over time.
- **Stacked Area Charts:** Stacked area charts display the cumulative value or proportion of different variables over time. They are useful for visualizing the composition or contribution of each variable to the total.

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Conclusion

Time series data visualization is crucial for gaining insights, identifying patterns, and making informed decisions. Various visualization techniques, such as line plots, bar charts, and heatmaps, can effectively represent time series data. Platforms like Microsoft Power BI, Tableau, R, and Excel provide powerful tools for creating interactive and visually appealing time series visualizations. By leveraging these platforms and techniques, analysts and data professionals can effectively communicate trends, patterns, and anomalies hidden within time series data.

Time Series Analysis and Weather Forecast in Python

A **time series** is a series of [data points](#) indexed (or listed or graphed) in time order. Most commonly, a time series is a [sequence](#) taken at successive equally spaced points in time. **Time series data** are simply measurements or events that are tracked, monitored, downsampled, and aggregated over **time**. Time-Series Data are frequently encountered these days, for example in economic, stock price, weather data, etc.

Dataset Description

The data have been downloaded from the website <http://rp5.ru/>. The data are average daily temperatures collected by the weather station 2978 in Helsinki from September 2015 to May 2019.

The original data have been resampled by day and it contains 2 columns “**datetime**” and “**T_mu**”. “**datetime**” is the index, indicating the date in the format YYYY-MM-DD. Another column is “**T_mu**”, showing the average daily air temperature, in degrees Celsius, 2 meters above the earth surface.

For interested people, the data could be downloaded from [here](#). The folder contains 4 CSV files, and in this project, we would be using the ‘**weather_data_test.csv**’ since it contains the recent weather temperature from 2015 to 2019. For the remaining files, I would write another post on performing Regression & Classification later.

Exploratory Data Analysis

- A first glimpse at the data:

Observations:

- On 17 July 2018, Helsinki witnessed the hottest date in the 4-year period (2016–2019). The temperature was 26.1 degrees Celsius. In contrast, on 07 January 2016, Helsinki citizens saw

the coldest date in the 4-year period, when the temperature dropped to as terribly low as -22.6 degrees Celsius.

- There was not a significant difference between the median and the mean, being approximately 5.8 and 6.6 degrees Celsius respectively.

Data Visualization

Let's explore the time-series data as a plot:

Observations:

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Data Visualization

Let's explore the time-series data as a plot:



How could we plot the graph containing only longer-than-daily temperature change and thus looks neater?

Here is the tool: Moving average smoothing. It is a naive and effective technique in time series forecasting. Smoothing is a technique applied to time series to remove the fine-grained variation between time steps.

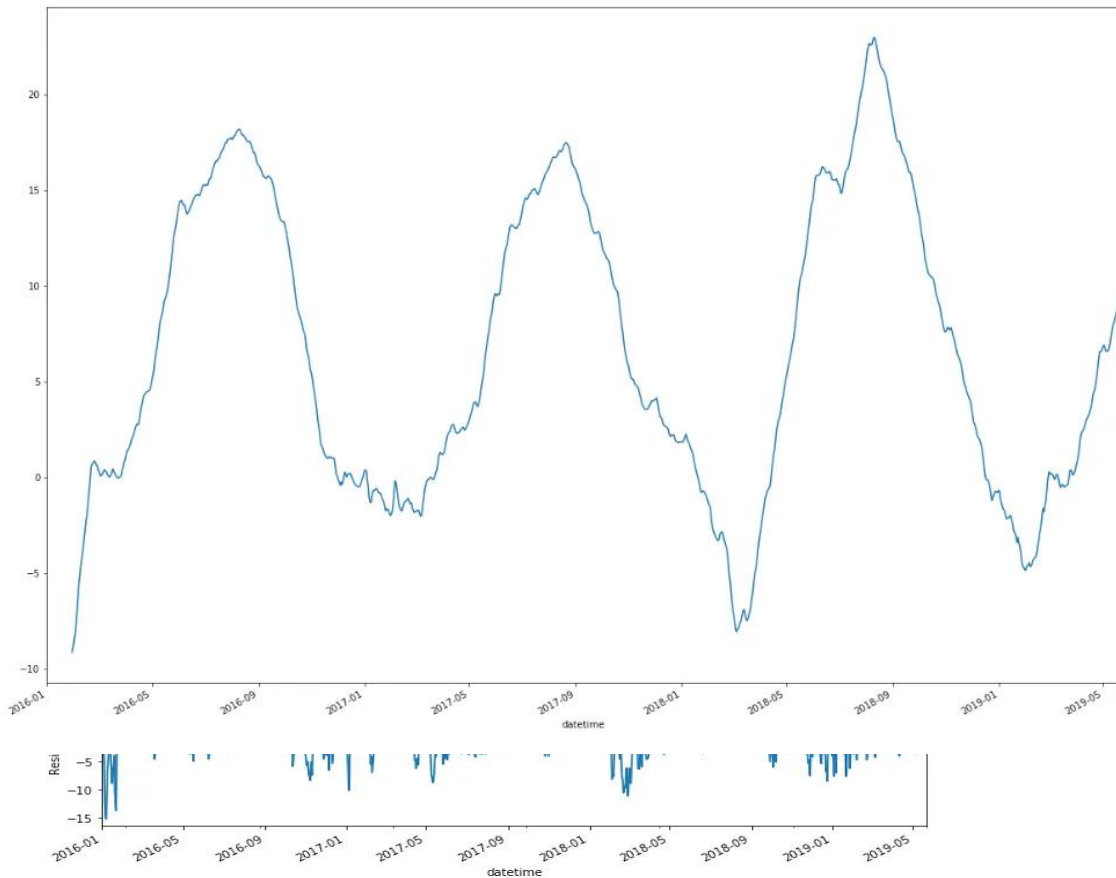
Smoothing is used to remove noise and better expose the signal of the underlying causal processes. Moving averages are a simple and common type of smoothing used in time series analysis and time series forecasting.

The `rolling()` function on the Series Pandas object will automatically group observations into a window. You can specify the window size, and by default, a trailing window is created. Once the window is created, we can take the mean value, and this is our transformed dataset.

Below is an example of transforming the dataset into a moving average with a window size of 30 days, chosen arbitrarily.

```
In [9]: # Apply the Moving Average function by a subset of size 30 days.  
temp_df_mean = temp_df.T_mu.rolling(window=30).mean()  
temp_df_mean.plot(figsize=(20,15))
```

```
Out[9]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1124a5978>
```



Baseline Model

Since the change of temperature is not significant between any 2 days, it is reasonable to produce a most basic model in which it uses the current temperature as a prediction for the next day.

Thus, we would predict the weather based on an assumption:

The air temperature today depends on the air temperature yesterday, the air temperature yesterday depends on the day before yesterday, and so on.

Here, I use 1-step prediction to model the temperature as a time series:

A visualization technique to assist in the comparison of large meteorological datasets

DATA VISUALIZATION TECHNIQUES

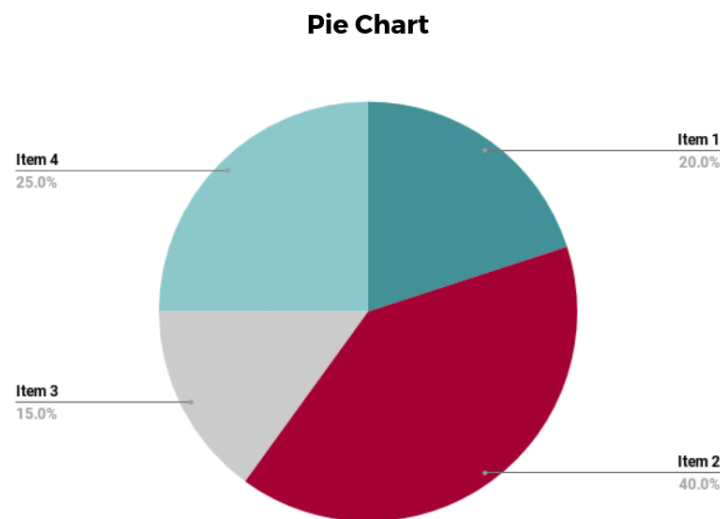
The type of data visualization technique you leverage will vary based on the type of data you're working with, in addition to the story you're telling with your data.

Here are some important data visualization techniques to know:

- Pie Chart
- Bar Chart
- Histogram
- Gantt Chart
- Heat Map
- Box and Whisker Plot
- Waterfall Chart
- Area Chart
- Scatter Plot
- Pictogram Chart
- Timeline
- Highlight Table

- Bullet Graph
- Choropleth Map
- Word Cloud
- Network Diagram
- Correlation Matrices

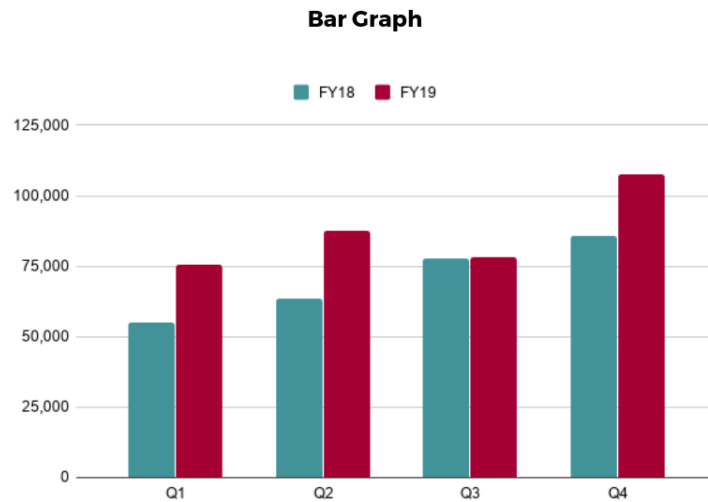
1. Pie Chart



Pie charts are one of the most common and basic data visualization techniques, used across a wide range of applications. Pie charts are ideal for illustrating proportions, or part-to-whole comparisons.

Because pie charts are relatively simple and easy to read, they're best suited for audiences who might be unfamiliar with the information or are only interested in the key takeaways. For viewers who require a more thorough explanation of the data, pie charts fall short in their ability to display complex information.

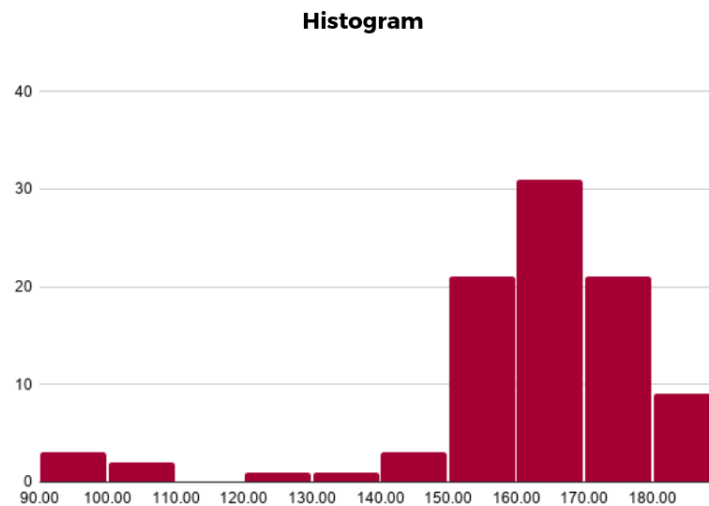
2. Bar Chart



The classic bar chart, or bar graph, is another common and easy-to-use method of data visualization. In this type of visualization, one axis of the chart shows the categories being compared, and the other, a measured value. The length of the bar indicates how each group measures according to the value.

One drawback is that labeling and clarity can become problematic when there are too many categories included. Like pie charts, they can also be too simple for more complex data sets.

3. Histogram



Unlike bar charts, histograms illustrate the distribution of data over a continuous interval or defined period. These visualizations are helpful in identifying where values are concentrated, as well as where there are gaps or unusual values.

Histograms are especially useful for showing the frequency of a particular occurrence. For instance, if you'd like to show how many clicks your website received each day over the last week, you can use a histogram. From this visualization, you can quickly determine which days your website saw the greatest and fewest number of clicks.

