

Lecture VII - Pandas and AI

Programming with Python

Dr. Tobias Vlček

Kühne Logistics University Hamburg - Fall 2025

Quick Recap of the last Lecture

What is NumPy?

- NumPy is a package for scientific computing in Python
- Provides multi-dimensional arrays and matrices
- Much faster than Python lists for numerical operations
- Operations are implemented in C and C++

...

💡 Tip

NumPy arrays are stored in contiguous memory blocks, making operations very efficient.

Creating Arrays

- Core data structure is the `ndarray`
- Can create arrays from lists, tuples, or other data structures
- Special functions like:
 - `np.zeros()` for arrays of zeros
 - `np.random.rand()` for random values
 - `np.arange()` for evenly spaced values
 - `np.linspace()` for linearly spaced values

Working with Arrays

- Support for multi-dimensional operations
- Common operations:
 - Element-wise arithmetic (`+`, `-`, `*`, `/`)
 - Array indexing and slicing
 - Shape manipulation (`reshape`, `flatten`)
 - Sorting and transposing

...

💡 Tip

NumPy operations are vectorized, meaning they operate on entire arrays at once rather than element by element.

NumPy in Action I

Task: Complete the following task:

```
# TODO: Create an array with 10 evenly spaced numbers over the interval  
from 0 to 73.  
  
import numpy as np  
# YOUR CODE HERE
```

...

ℹ Note

Note, that you can always use the `help()` function to get more information about a function. But be sure to import the package first, otherwise you will get an error. To quit the help page, press `q`.

NumPy in Action II

Task: Complete the following task:

```
# TODO: Take the following 3x3 array and reduce it to a 1D array.  
  
import numpy as np  
array = np.array([[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6], [7, 8, 9]])  
# YOUR CODE HERE
```

Pandas Basics

What is Pandas?

- Pandas is a data manipulation and analysis library
- It provides data structures like DataFrames and Series
- Tools for data cleaning, analysis, and visualization
- It can also be used to work with Excel files!

How to install Pandas

- In the last lecture, we have installed it with `uv install pandas`
- Now, import the package `import pandas as pd`

...

i Note

You can also use a different abbreviation, but `pd` is the most common one.

Creating DataFrames

- DataFrames behave quite similar to Numpy arrays
- But they have row and column labels

...

```
import pandas as pd
df = pd.DataFrame({ # DataFrame is created from a dictionary
    "Name": ["Tobias", "Robin", "Nils", "Nikolai"],
    "Kids": [2, 1, 0, 0],
    "City": ["Oststeinbek", "Oststeinbek", "Hamburg", "Lübeck"],
    "Salary": [3000, 3200, 4000, 2500]}); print(df)
```

	Name	Kids	City	Salary
0	Tobias	2	Oststeinbek	3000
1	Robin	1	Oststeinbek	3200
2	Nils	0	Hamburg	4000
3	Nikolai	0	Lübeck	2500

Reading from CSV Files

```
df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv") # Reads the CSV file
print(df)
```

	Name	Age	Department	Position	Salary
0	Alice	30	HR	Manager	50000
1	Bob	25	IT	Developer	60000
2	Charlie	28	Finance	Analyst	55000
3	David	35	Marketing	Executive	52000
4	Eve	32	Sales	Representative	48000
5	Frank	29	IT	Developer	61000
6	Grace	31	HR	Assistant	45000
7	Hank	27	Finance	Analyst	53000
8	Ivy	33	Marketing	Manager	58000
9	Jack	26	Sales	Representative	47000
10	Kara	34	IT	Developer	62000
11	Leo	30	HR	Manager	51000
12	Mona	28	Finance	Analyst	54000
13	Nina	35	Marketing	Executive	53000
14	Oscar	32	Sales	Representative	49000
15	Paul	29	IT	Developer	63000
16	Quinn	31	HR	Assistant	46000
17	Rita	27	Finance	Analyst	52000
18	Sam	33	Marketing	Manager	59000
19	Tina	26	Sales	Representative	48000

```

20    Uma   34      IT      Developer  64000
21  Vince  30      HR      Manager   52000
22   Walt  28  Finance      Analyst  55000
23   Xena  35  Marketing      Executive 54000
24   Yara  32      Sales  Representative 50000
25   Zane  29      IT      Developer  65000
26   Anna  31      HR      Assistant 47000
27   Ben   27  Finance      Analyst  53000
28  Cathy  33  Marketing      Manager  60000
29  Dylan  26      Sales  Representative 49000
30   Ella  34      IT      Developer  66000
31   Finn  30      HR      Manager  53000
32   Gina  28  Finance      Analyst  56000
33   Hugo  35  Marketing      Executive 55000
34   Iris  32      Sales  Representative 51000
35   Jake  29      IT      Developer  67000
36   Kyla  31      HR      Assistant 48000
37   Liam  27  Finance      Analyst  54000
38   Mia   33  Marketing      Manager  61000
39   Noah  26      Sales  Representative 50000
40   Olive 34      IT      Developer  68000
41   Pete  30      HR      Manager  54000
42  Quincy 28  Finance      Analyst  57000
43   Rose  35  Marketing      Executive 56000
44   Steve 32      Sales  Representative 52000
45   Tara  29      IT      Developer  69000
46   Umar  31      HR      Assistant 49000
47   Vera  27  Finance      Analyst  55000
48   Will  33  Marketing      Manager  62000
49   Zara  26      Sales  Representative 51000

```

Basic Operations

- Use the `df.head()` method to display the first 5 rows
- Use the `df.tail()` method to display the last 5 rows

...

```

df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv")
print(df.tail())

```

	Name	Age	Department	Position	Salary
45	Tara	29	IT	Developer	69000
46	Umar	31	HR	Assistant	49000
47	Vera	27	Finance	Analyst	55000
48	Will	33	Marketing	Manager	62000
49	Zara	26	Sales	Representative	51000

Information about the DataFrame

- Use `df.info()` to display information about a DataFrame

...

```
df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv")
print(df.info())
```

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 50 entries, 0 to 49
Data columns (total 5 columns):
 #   Column      Non-Null Count  Dtype  
---  --          -----          ----  
 0   Name        50 non-null    object  
 1   Age         50 non-null    int64  
 2   Department  50 non-null    object  
 3   Position    50 non-null    object  
 4   Salary      50 non-null    int64  
dtypes: int64(2), object(3)
memory usage: 2.1+ KB
None
```

Statistics about a DataFrame

- Use `df.describe()` to display summary statistics
- Use the `df.index` attribute to access the index

...

```
df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv")
print(df.describe())
```

	Age	Salary
count	50.000000	50.000000
mean	30.320000	54980.000000
std	2.958488	6175.957333
min	25.000000	45000.000000
25%	28.000000	50250.000000
50%	30.000000	54000.000000
75%	33.000000	59750.000000
max	35.000000	69000.000000

Filtering DataFrames

- Use `df['column_name']` to access a column
- Use the `df[df['column'] > value]` method to filter

...

```
df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv")
df_high_salary = df[df['Salary'] >= 67000]
print(df_high_salary)
print(df_high_salary.iloc[2]["Name"]) #Access the third row and the "Name" column
print(df_high_salary.loc[40]["Name"]) #Access the label 40 and the "Name" column
```

	Name	Age	Department	Position	Salary
35	Jake	29	IT	Developer	67000
40	Olive	34	IT	Developer	68000
45	Tara	29	IT	Developer	69000
	Tara				
	Olive				

Filtering in Action

Task: Complete the following task:

```
# TODO: Load the employees.csv located in the git repository into a
DataFrame
# First, filter the DataFrame for employees with a manager position
# Then, print the average salary of the remaining employees
# Finally, print the name of the employee with the lowest salary
```

...

i Note

Note, that we can use the `mean()` method on the `Salary` column, as it is a numeric column. In addition, we can use the `min()` method on the `Salary` column to find the lowest salary.

Grouping DataFrames

Grouping

- Grouping is a powerful feature of Pandas
- Groups data by one or more columns
- And then perform operations
- Syntax is `df.groupby('column').method()`

...

```
df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv")
df.groupby(['Position']).sum() # Sum per position
```

Position	Name	Age	Department	Salary
	Charlie	275	Finance	544000
Analyst	Hank		Finance	
	Mona		Finance	
Assistant	Rita		Finance	
	Walt		Finance	
	Ben		Finance	
	Gina		Finance	
	Liam		Finance	
	Quincy		Finance	
	Vera		Finance	
	Grace	155	HR	235000
	Quinn		HR	
	Anna		HR	
	Kyla		HR	
	Umar		HR	

		Name	Age	Department	Salary
Position					
Developer	BobFrankKara-PaulUmaZaneElla-JakeOliveTara	306	ITITITITITITITIT	645000	
Executive	DavidNinaXenaHugoRose	175	MarketingMarketing-MarketingMarketing-Marketing	270000	
Manager	AlicelyvLeoSamVince-CathyFinnMiaPeteWill	315	HRMarketingHRMarketingHRMarket-ingHRMarketingHR...	560000	
Representative	EveJackOscarTina-YaraDylanIrisNoah-SteveZara	290	SalesSalesSalesSalesSalesSalesSalesSalesS...	495000	

Grouping Numeric Columns

- To prevent errors, we can select numeric columns first
- Afterwards, perform the operation on the selected columns
- Helps to avoid errors when grouping by non-numeric columns
- Or drop columns by `df.drop(columns=["column"])`

...

```
df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv")
numeric_cols = df.select_dtypes(include=['number']).columns
print(df.groupby("Position")[numeric_cols].sum())
```

Position	Age	Salary
Analyst	275	544000
Assistant	155	235000
Developer	306	645000
Executive	175	270000
Manager	315	560000
Representative	290	495000

Grouping by Multiple Columns

- Group by multiple columns `['column1', 'column2']`
- You can use lists or tuples to specify multiple columns

...

```
df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv")
df = df.drop(columns=["Name"])
```

```
# Max per position and department  
df.groupby(['Position', "Department"]).max()
```

Position	Department	Age	Salary
Analyst	Finance	28	57000
Assistant	HR	31	49000
Developer	IT	34	69000
Executive	Marketing	35	56000
Manager	HR	30	54000
	Marketing	33	62000
Representative	Sales	32	52000

Grouping with Aggregations

- We can use different aggregation functions:
 - ▶ `sum()`: sum of the values
 - ▶ `mean()`: mean of the values
 - ▶ `max()`: maximum of the values
 - ▶ `min()`: minimum of the values
 - ▶ `count()`: count of the values

Pandas in Action

Task: Complete the following task:

```
# TODO: Load the employees.csv again into a DataFrame  
# First, group by the "Position" column and count the employees per  
position  
# Then, group by the "Department" column and calculate the mean of all  
other columns per department  
df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv")  
# Your code here
```

Combining DataFrames

Concatenating DataFrames

- `pd.concat()` to concatenate along shared columns

```
df1 = pd.DataFrame({'A': [1, 2, 3], "B": [4, 5, 6]})  
df2 = pd.DataFrame({'A': [7, 8, 9], "B": [10, 11, 12]})  
df = pd.concat([df1, df2])  
print(df)
```

	A	B
0	1	4
1	2	5
2	3	6
0	7	10
1	8	11
2	9	12

Joining DataFrames

- Use `pd.join()` to join DataFrames along columns
- Joining is done on the index by default!

```
df1 = pd.DataFrame({"A": [1, 2, 3], "B": [4, 5, 6]}, index=['x', 'y', 'z'])
df2 = pd.DataFrame({"C": [7, 8, 9], "D": [10, 11, 12]}, index=['z', 'y', 'w'])
df = df1.join(df2)
print(df)
```

	A	B	C	D
x	1	4	NaN	NaN
y	2	5	8.0	11.0
z	3	6	7.0	10.0

Merging DataFrames on Columns

- `pd.merge(df_name, on='column', how='type')`
- merge DataFrames along shared columns
- `how` specifies the type of merge
 - `inner`: rows with matching keys in both DataFrames
 - `outer`: rows from both are kept, missing values are filled
 - `left`: rows from the left are kept, missing values are filled
 - `right`: rows from right are kept, missing values are filled

Outer Merge

```
df3 = pd.DataFrame({"A": [1, 2, 3], "B": [4, 5, 6]})
df4 = pd.DataFrame({"A": [2, 3, 4], "C": [7, 8, 9]})
df_merged = df3.merge(df4, on="A", how="outer")
print(df_merged)
```

	A	B	C
0	1	4.0	NaN
1	2	5.0	7.0
2	3	6.0	8.0
3	4	NaN	9.0

Merging in Action

Task: Complete the following task:

```

df1 = pd.DataFrame({
    "Name": ["John", "Alice", "Bob", "Carol"],
    "Department": ["Sales", "IT", "HR", "Sales"],
    "Salary": [50000, 60000, 55000, 52000]})

df2 = pd.DataFrame({
    "Name": ["Alice", "Bob", "Dave", "Eve"],
    "Position": ["Developer", "Manager", "Analyst", "Developer"],
    "Years": [5, 8, 3, 4]})

# TODO: Merge the two DataFrames on the "Name" column
# Try different types of merges (inner, outer, left, right)
# Observe and describe the differences in the results

```

Working with Excel Files

Reading Excel Files

- Read using the `pd.read_excel(file_path)` function
- Write using the `df.to_excel(file_path)` method

...

```

import pandas as pd
df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv")
df.to_excel("supplementary/lec_08/employees.xlsx", index=False)

```

...

Note

Note, that you likely need to install the `openpyxl` package to be able to write Excel files, as it handles the file format.

Advanced Excel file handling

We can also specify the sheet name when reading and writing

```

# Writes to the Employees sheet and does not include row indices
df.to_excel("supplementary/lec_08/employees.xlsx", sheet_name="Employees",
index=False)

```

...

```

# Reads from the Employees sheet
df = pd.read_excel("supplementary/lec_08/employees.xlsx",
sheet_name="Employees")
print(df.head())

```

	Name	Age	Department	Position	Salary
0	Alice	30	HR	Manager	50000
1	Bob	25	IT	Developer	60000
2	Charlie	28	Finance	Analyst	55000
3	David	35	Marketing	Executive	52000
4	Eve	32	Sales	Representative	48000

Excel in Action

Task: Complete the following task:

```
# TODO: Load the temperatures.xlsx file into a DataFrame
# Look at the first few rows of the DataFrame
# Then, print the average temperature per city
```

Melting DataFrames

Melting

- Sometimes, you want to transform a DataFrame
- Instead of wide format, you want long format
- This is useful for certain types of visualizations
- And when working with time series data

...

Question: Anybody ever heard of the terms?

Wide Format

For example, the following DataFrame is in wide format:

	Date	Hamburg	Los_Angeles	Tokyo
0	2024-03-01	12.0	18.2	14.8
1	2024-03-02	9.8	23.0	17.6
2	2024-03-03	7.6	20.3	16.0
3	2024-03-04	10.1	21.1	13.4
4	2024-03-05	11.2	18.5	15.1
..
87	2024-05-27	12.4	24.5	24.9
88	2024-05-28	17.8	20.6	22.3
89	2024-05-29	16.2	20.4	20.2
90	2024-05-30	15.5	20.7	21.7
91	2024-05-31	12.6	22.0	22.9

[92 rows x 4 columns]

Long Format

The melting process transforms it into the following long format:

```

      Date     City Temperature
0  2024-03-01  Hamburg      12.0
1  2024-03-02  Hamburg       9.8
2  2024-03-03  Hamburg       7.6
3  2024-03-04  Hamburg      10.1
4  2024-03-05  Hamburg      11.2
..      ...
271 2024-05-27    Tokyo      24.9
272 2024-05-28    Tokyo      22.3
273 2024-05-29    Tokyo      20.2
274 2024-05-30    Tokyo      21.7
275 2024-05-31    Tokyo      22.9

```

[276 rows x 3 columns]

How to melt DataFrames

- Use `pd.melt()` to transform from wide to long
- Parameters:
 - `id_vars`: columns to keep
 - `var_name`: name of the new column that will contain the names of the original columns
 - `value_name`: name of the new column that will contain the values of the original columns

...

```

df = pd.read_csv("supplementary/lec_08/employees.csv")
df = pd.melt(df, id_vars=['Position'], var_name='Variables',
             value_name='Values')
print(df)

```

```

      Position Variables  Values
0        Manager      Name   Alice
1      Developer      Name    Bob
2       Analyst      Name Charlie
3     Executive      Name  David
4  Representative      Name   Eve
..      ...
195     Developer    Salary  69000
196     Assistant    Salary  49000
197     Analyst     Salary  55000
198     Manager     Salary  62000
199 Representative    Salary  51000

```

[200 rows x 3 columns]

Melting in Action

Task: Complete the following task:

```

# TODO: Load and transform the temperatures.xlsx file by melting it
# Expected output format:
#       Date      City   Temperature
# 0  2024-03-01  Hamburg        7.2
# 1  2024-03-01  Los_Angeles    18.5
# 2  2024-03-01      Tokyo       12.3
# Then, print the maximum temperature per city by grouping by the "City"
# column

```

Programming with AI

Using AI to generate code

- Coding by hand is not the only way to generate code
- Most likely, a lot of you have already used ChatGPT

...

How do

Large Language

Models work?

Photo by Taylor Vick on Unsplash

Large Language Models (LLMs)

- Think of them like advanced pattern recognition systems
- They have “read” massive amounts of text
- Books, websites, articles, code, and more
- Text is broken into tokens, parts of words or punctuation
- Based on patterns, they can generate new text

Training LLMs

- Imagine learning a language by reading millions of books
- Learns patterns in how words and ideas connect via tokens
- Interconnected nodes with weights representing patterns
- During training, these weights are adjusted
- Once trained, applying them takes much less resources

Pattern Recognition

- Not like a search engine!
- When asked, it looks for relevant patterns it learned
- Like having a huge library in its “memory” to draw from
- It can find patterns between concepts and your question
- Knows only limited text at once (context window)

Probability based responses

- After each written token, it predicts “what should come next?”

- Like a advanced version of the word prediction on your phone
- Chooses the most likely next token based on training
- But can't actually "think" or "understand" like humans

Limitations

- No true understanding of cause and effect
- Sometimes makes mistakes or "hallucinates"
- Mostly only knows what it was trained on
- Can reflect biases present in training data
- No emotional understanding (but can simulate responses!)

Impact on Jobs

- Question: What do you think about their impact on jobs?
- Question: What are the implications for us?
- Question: Can we use them to our advantage?

...

Warning

If you use free models, be aware that your prompts are going to be used by the providers and are not private. But for learning and experimenting, this should be no issue.

AI Coding Partner

(Current) Choices for Programmers

- [Github Copilot](#): Integrated into VS Code by Microsoft
- [Cursor](#): Fork of VS Code with AI assistance built in
- [Aider](#): Chat interface for AI to write code in the terminal
- [Zed](#): Lightweight IDE with AI features
- [Claude Code](#): Coding-Assistant in the terminal

...

Tip

Currently, [Zed](#) in combination with [Claude Code](#) is my favorite one. But this might change in the future, as there is a lot of competition in this space.

GitHub Copilot

GitHub Copilot helps you write code faster and with less effort.

...

Think of it as:

- An autocomplete for entire lines or blocks of code
- A coding assistant that understands context
- A learning tool that shows you coding patterns

...

Note

Copilot uses AI trained on billions of lines of public code to suggest completions based on what you're typing.

Get Free Access

GitHub Student Developer Pack gives you free Copilot access!

...

How to get it:

1. Go to education.github.com/pack
2. Sign up with your university email
3. Verify your student status
4. Wait for approval (usually 1-2 days)
5. Login into your account in VS Code

...

Note

You'll need a GitHub account. Create one at github.com if you don't have one.

Asking for help

Task: Paste the following prompt in to the chat:

Can you please write me a small number guessing game in python? It should work for one player in the terminal. The player should guess a number between 1-10 and get hints about whether his guess was too large or too small. After 3 tries, end the game if he didn't succeed with a nice message.

...

Copy the generated code and paste it into your file.

More on Copilot

- While working with Copilot, it will suggest you code changes
- You can accept or reject them
- The rest you will learn by doing!

...

i Note

And that's it for todays lecture!

You now have the basic knowledge to start working with tabular data and AI!

Literature

Interesting Books

- Downey, A. B. (2024). Think Python: How to think like a computer scientist (Third edition). O'Reilly. [Link to free online version](#)
- Elter, S. (2021). Schrödinger programmiert Python: Das etwas andere Fachbuch (1. Auflage). Rheinwerk Verlag.

...

For more interesting literature to learn more about Python, take a look at the [literature list](#) of this course.