



Universität
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Data Analysis – Advanced Statistics with Python

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Thursday, 12.15pm – 13.45pm, AND 2.46



Session 2 – Getting and exploring data with *Pandas*

Agenda

1. The basics of programming with Python
2. How to *Pandas*
3. Hands on
4. (Optional: Jupyter Notebook)

1. The basics of programming with Python

Programming essentials

- Learning Python programming basics is not mandatory but might help you throughout the course
- The most important parts:
 - Strings
 - Lists
 - Dictionaries
 - Control flow (e.g., `if`, `else`, `elif`)
 - Loops (e.g., `for`, `while`)
 - Functions
 - (Classes)

Where/how to learn Python

- Online platforms, e.g.:
 - codecademy
 - coursera
 - udemy
 - DataCamp
- Video tutorials, e.g.:
 - freeCodeCamp.org: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfscVS0vtbw>
 - Bro Code: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKHEtdqhLK8>
- Books, e.g.:
 - *Python Crash Course, 2nd Edition: A Hands-On, Project-Based Introduction to Programming* (author: Eric Matthes)
 - *Automate the Boring Stuff with Python, 2nd Edition: Practical Programming for Total Beginners* (author: Al Sweigart)
 - *Learning Python, 5th Edition* (author: Mark Lutz)
- You will find several cheat sheets on OLAT covering those programming essentials in a condensed manner

2. How to «*Pandas*»

Pandas overview

- One of the most important and basic library for data analysis in Python
- It is used for importing and cleaning data
- Key functionalities:
 - Importing/creating and saving data sets
 - Data cleaning
 - Data management and manipulation
 - Handling missing data
 - Grouping data
 - Describing data
 - Summary statistics
 - Merging of data sets

Data objects in *Pandas*

1) Series

- One-dimensional data structure
- can store data of different types (including characters, integers, floating point values, categorical data and more)
- Rows are labelled

```
In [3]: pd.Series(["Anna", "Paul", "Sarah", "Max", "Michael"])
Out[3]:
0      Anna
1      Paul
2     Sarah
3       Max
4   Michael
```

2) Dataframe

- Two-dimensional data structure
- Basically a sequence of series that are organized in columns
- similar to a spreadsheet, a SQL table or the data.frame in R
- Rows and columns are labelled

```
In [8]: pd.DataFrame({"name": ["Anna", "Paul", "Sarah", "Max", "Michael"],
"age": [23, np.nan, 23, 27, 25], "program": ["BA", "MA", "MA", "BA", "MA"]})
Out[8]:
   name  age program
0  Anna  23.0     BA
1  Paul   NaN     MA
2  Sarah  23.0     MA
3   Max  27.0     BA
4 Michael  25.0     MA
```


Pandas documentation

- Documentation and tutorials:
<https://pandas.pydata.org/>
- *10 minutes to pandas* quick guide:
https://pandas.pydata.org/docs/user_guide/10min.html
- Brief tutorials:
https://pandas.pydata.org/docs/getting_started/intro_tutorials/index.html
- Comparison with other statistical languages:
https://pandas.pydata.org/docs/getting_started/comparison/index.html

Importing libraries

- Make sure that the library you want to import is already installed

- Use the `import` command:

```
import library_name
```

- If you are only using some parts of the library use the `from` prefix:

```
from library_name import part_name
```

- You can (and should!) define abbreviations for the libraries you are importing using the `as` suffix:

```
import library_name as abbreviation
```

- Stick to the community conventions for defining abbreviations, this will increase the readability of your code

```
import pandas as pd  
  
import numpy as np  
  
from matplotlib import pyplot as plt  
  
import seaborn as sns
```

How to use functions from libraries

Using functions

- Each library has its own specific functions and methods that you can use if you import the library
- You can call these functions by combining the library name as a prefix with the function name as a suffix:
`library_name.function_name()`
- It now becomes clear why you should abbreviate the library names:
Instead of typing `pandas.Series()` you can type `pd.Series()` to create a data frame

Return value of functions

- Most functions return a result, that can be saved into a variable, e.g.:
`df = pd.Series([23, np.nan , 23, 27, 25])` or `df_nomiss = df.dropna("any")`
- Some functions don't have a return value but directly execute an action: `df.describe()`
- Many *Pandas* functions have an inplace parameter:
 - `inplace=False` (default): the object is not changed directly; the result has to be saved to a variable
 - `inplace=True`: the object is changed directly

Method chaining

- Chaining different methods in a row as a sequence: the result from one method is used in the next method
- Improves the readability of your code

```
covid_survey.dropna(how="any")
```

Drops all cases that have at least one missing value



```
covid_survey.info()
```

Provides basic information about the data frame such as number of columns and rows



```
covid_survey.dropna(how="any").info()
```

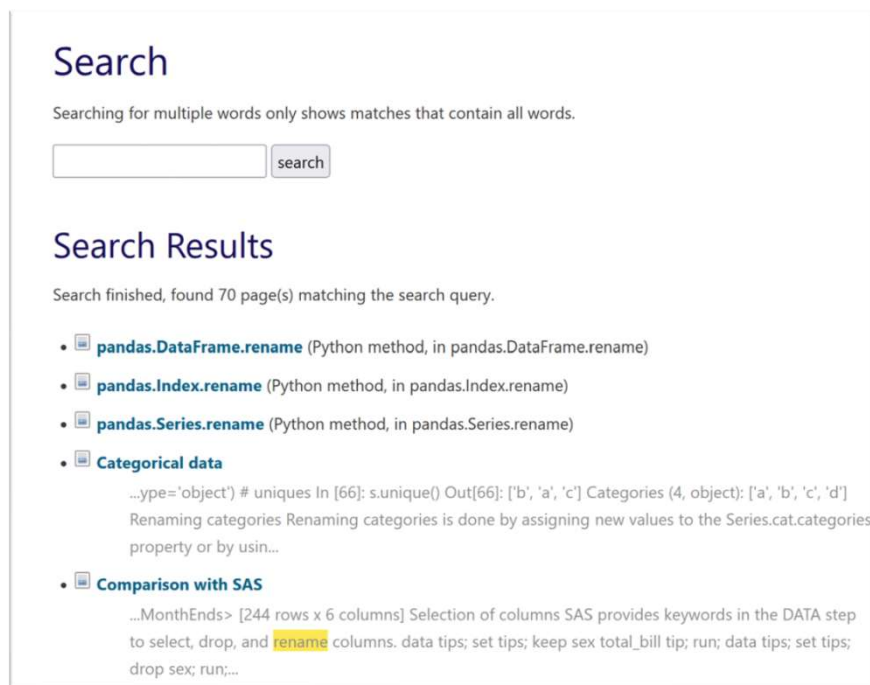
Drops all cases that have at least one missing value and directly displays the data frame informations

Getting help

- You can't possibly know all functions and their parameters
- But a good programmer/statistician knows where and how to find help!

Pandas documentation:

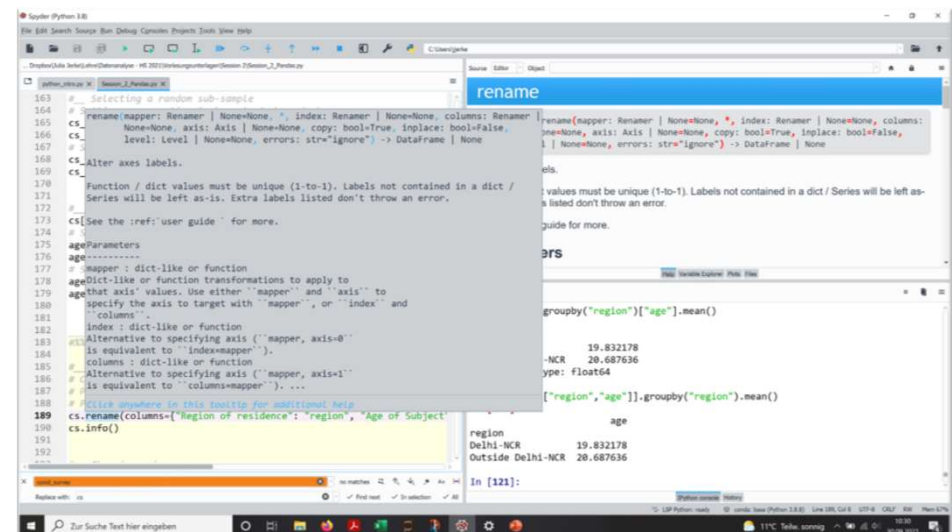
<https://pandas.pydata.org/docs/search.html?q=>



The screenshot shows the Pandas documentation search interface. At the top, there's a 'Search' section with a text input field and a 'search' button. Below it, a message states: 'Searching for multiple words only shows matches that contain all words.' The 'Search Results' section indicates 'Search finished, found 70 page(s) matching the search query.' A list of results is shown, including 'pandas.DataFrame.rename', 'pandas.Index.rename', and 'pandas.Series.rename'. The 'Categorical data' section provides details on renaming categories. The 'Comparison with SAS' section mentions keywords like 'MonthEnds', '244 rows x 6 columns', and 'drop sex; run;...'.

In Spyder

- Set to cursor inside the function name and press Ctrl+I (in Windows), or
- Hover across the function name and click inside the pop-up window



The screenshot shows the Spyder Python IDE. A code editor window displays a Python script with a 'rename' function call. A hover tooltip is visible over the 'rename' function name, showing its signature: 'rename(mapper: Renamer | None=None, *, index: Renamer | None=None, columns: Renamer | None=None, axis: Axis | None=None, copy: bool=True, inplace: bool=False, level: Level | None=None, errors: str="ignore") -> DataFrame | None'. The tooltip also includes a brief description: 'Function / dict values must be unique (1-to-1). Labels not contained in a dict / Series will be left as-is. Extra labels listed don't throw an error.' The background code shows a DataFrame being renamed and then grouped by 'region' to calculate the mean 'age'.

3. Hands on

... *Open Session_2_Pandas.py*