

International Trade: Data Lab 1

Intro to Python

Carlos Góes¹

¹George Washington University

Fall 2025

Why Python?

Python for data science

- Python is a **general-purpose programming language** that is growing in popularity both in data science and other fields.
- Python prioritizes code readability for humans—and it is very easy for beginners.
- It follows principles such as (see the *Zen of Python*):
 - Explicit is better than implicit;
 - Simple is better than complex;
 - Readability counts.

Why Python?

Easy to understand

Java

```
class myprog
{
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        System.out.println("Hi!");
    }
}
```

Python

```
print("Hi!")
```

Downloading Anaconda Navigator

Data science optimized environment

- Go on `https://www.anaconda.com/download`
- Skip registration
- Download your system's version

How to use Spyder?



Integers, floats, strings and booleans

Integers

- Integers are *whole numbers* (no decimals or fractions).

$$\mathbb{Z} \equiv \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\} \quad (1)$$

- Example in Python:

```
var = 20  
print(type(var))
```

Integers, floats, strings and booleans

Floats

- Floats are arithmetic representations of all *real* numbers.

$$\mathbb{R} \quad \equiv \quad \{\dots, -\pi, -2.5, -\sqrt{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2}, \sqrt{2}, 2.5, \pi, \dots\} \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbb{R} \quad \equiv \quad \{\dots, -3.14159265, -2.5, -1.41421356, \\ -0.5, 0, 0.5, 1.41421356, 2.5, 3.14159265, \dots\}$$

- Example in Python:

```
var = 3.14159265  
print(type(var))
```

Integers, floats, strings and booleans

Strings

- Strings are text representations.
- Example in Python:

```
var = "This is a string of characters"  
print(type(var))
```


Integers, floats, strings and booleans

Booleans

- Booleans are logical representations (true or false).
- Example in Python:

```
var1 = True  
print(type(var1))  
var2 = (2+2 == 5)  
print(type(var2))
```

Integers, floats, strings and booleans

Variable types and theoretical categorizations

Discrete quantitative variables: `integers`.

(e.g., completed years of schooling)

Continuous quantitative variables: `floats`.

(e.g., weight in lbs)

Categorical qualitative variables: `booleans` or `strings`.

(e.g., race)

Ordinal qualitative variables: `strings` or `integers`.

Integers, floats, strings and booleans

Numeric operations

- Addition:

$x + y$

- Subtraction:

$x - y$

- Division:

x / y

- Multiplication:

$x * y$

- Exponentiation:

$x ** y$

- Modulo (remainder):

$x \% y$

$3 \% 2$ is 1

Integers, floats, strings and booleans

String operations

- Addition equals concatenation:

```
str1 = "Carlos"  
str2 = "Góes"  
print(str1 + " " + str2)
```

- Multiplication equals repetition:

```
str1 = "a"  
print(str1 * 10)
```

Integers, floats, strings and booleans

Logical operations

- Equality:

```
2 + 2 == 4
```

```
str = "a"
```

```
str == "a"
```

- Inequality:

```
2 + 2 != 4
```

```
str = "a"
```

```
str != "a"
```

- Greater than or less than:

```
10 > 100
```

```
10 < 100
```

Integers, floats, strings and booleans

Logical operations

- In logical operations, `True` has the numeric value 1 and `False` has the numeric value 0; you can use this to perform arithmetic.
- Sum (how many are true?):

```
a = (1 + 1) == 2
b = (2 * 2) == 4
c = (2 * 2) == 5
d = a + b + c
print(d)
```

- Product (are all true?):

```
a = (1 + 1) == 2
b = (2 * 2) == 4
c = (2 * 2) == 5
d = a * b * c
print(d)
```

Lists and dictionaries

Lists

- Lists are collections of variables defined with [square brackets] and elements separated by commas:

```
list1 = [2, 20.5, "Hi!", 10 < 100]
print(list1)
```

- Lists are indexed from 0 to the last element; access an element with the syntax `list_name[index]`.
- For example, `print(list1[0])` returns 2.
- Meanwhile, `print(list1[3])` returns `True`.

Lists and dictionaries

Lists

- You can change a list element by assigning a value to a specific index:

```
list1[0] = 20  
print(list1)
```

- Add an element to the list:

```
list1.append(79.2)  
print(list1)
```

- Use multiplication to repeat the contents of a list:

```
list2 = list1 * 2  
print(list2)
```

- Or use addition to concatenate two lists:

```
list3 = [1,2]  
list4 = [5,6]  
list5 = list3 + list4  
print(list5)
```


Lists and dictionaries

Dictionaries

- Dictionaries are, as the name suggests, collections of key-value pairs; unlike lists, dictionaries are indexed by keys (usually words):

```
person1 = {  
    'name': 'Milton Friedman',  
    'dob': '07/31/1912'  
}  
  
print(person1)  
print(person1['name'])
```

- Add an element to the dictionary:

```
person1.update({'nationality': 'USA'})  
print(person1)
```

Introduction to pandas

Importing the pandas

- The pandas package must be installed first!
- After that we can simply import it:

```
import pandas as pd
```

- pandas has two basic structures: Series and DataFrames; the latter are collections of the former.

Introduction to pandas

Series

- Series are built from other objects:

```
x = np.linspace(1,10, 5)
label = ["a","b","c","d","e"]
series1 = pd.Series(x, name="Series1", index=label)
print(series1)
```

- Like lists, you can access an element of a Series using its index:

```
print(series1["a"])
print(series1["d"])
```

Introduction to pandas

Series

- If you build your Series from dictionaries, they already come with indexes:

```
gwuid = {  
    'Carlos Goes': '06/99209',  
    "Nicolas Powidayko": '10/22290',  
    "Alexander Rabbat": '08/21346',  
    "Dani Alaino": '07/20345',  
    "Lya Nikate": '09/23567',  
    "Niz Borroz": '11/22035',  
    "Tom Rundal": "98/20145"  
}  
  
series2 = pd.Series(gwuid)  
print(series2)
```

Introduction to pandas

DataFrames

- DataFrames are groups of Series:

```
x = np.linspace(1,10, 5)
y = np.linspace(1,20, 5)
label = ["a","b","c","d","e"]
series1 = pd.Series(x, name="Series1", index=label)
series2 = pd.Series(y, name="Series2", index=label)

df = pd.DataFrame(data=[series1, series2])
```

- You can extract both columns and rows:

```
print(df["a"])
print(df.loc["Series1"])
```

- And transpose (flip) the data:

```
print(df.T)
```

Introduction to pandas

DataFrames

- You can also grab a specific element inside a column: `print(df["a"]["Series1"])`
- Or call the row first and then the column: `print(df.loc["Series1"]["a"])`

Introduction to pandas

DataFrames

- Let's create a DataFrame with several attributes:

```
gwuid = pd.Series(gwuid)

major = pd.Series({
    'Carlos Goes': 'Economics',
    'Nicolas Powidayko': 'Economics',
    'Alexander Rabbat': 'Computer Science',
    'Dani Alaino': 'Computer Science',
    'Lya Nikate': 'Computer Science',
    'Niz Borroz': 'Statistics',
    'Tom Rundal': 'Computer Science'
})

gpa = pd.Series({
    'Carlos Goes': 4.0,
    'Nicolas Powidayko': 3.8,
    'Alexander Rabbat': 3.8,
    'Dani Alaino': 3.4,
    'Lya Nikate': 3.3,
    'Niz Borroz': 3.0,
    'Tom Rundal': 3.0
})

list = [gwuid, major, gpa]
df = pd.DataFrame(list, index=['matricula', 'major', 'ira']).T
```

Introduction to pandas

DataFrames

- How to extract the attributes of Carlos Goes? `df.loc["Carlos Goes"]`
- How to extract all registration numbers? `df["gwuid"]`
- How to extract the data for all Computer Science students?
 - *Boolean masking!*
 - Try: `print(df["major"] == "Computer Science")`
 - And now like this: `print(df[df["major"] == "Computer Science"])`
 - What happened?