

# Area Plots, Histograms, and Bar Charts

Estimated time needed: 30 minutes

# **Objectives**

After completing this lab you will be able to:

- Create and customize
  - Area plot
  - Histogram
  - Bar charts on a dataset

### Table of Contents

- 1. Import Libraries
- 2. Fetching Data
- 3. Area Plots
- 4. Histograms
- 5. Bar Charts

# **Import Libraries**

Import the matplotlib library.

```
In [1]: #Import Primary Modules:
```

import numpy as np # useful for many scientific computing in Python
import pandas as pd # primary data structure library

# use the inline backend to generate the plots within the browser
%matplotlib inline

import matplotlib as mpl

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

mpl.style.use('ggplot') # optional: for ggplot-like style

# check for latest version of Matplotlib
print('Matplotlib version: ', mpl.__version__) # >= 2.0.0
```

Matplotlib version: 3.5.3

# **Fetching Data**

Dataset: Immigration to Canada from 1980 to 2013 - International migration flows to and from selected countries - The 2015 revision from United Nation's website

In this lab, we will focus on the Canadian Immigration data and use the **already cleaned** dataset and can be fetched from here.

You can refer to the lab on data pre-processing wherein this dataset is cleaned for a quick refresh your Panads skills Data pre-processing with Pandas

```
In [2]: df_can = pd.read_csv('https://cf-courses-data.s3.us.cloud-object-storage.appdomain.c]
    print('Data read into a pandas dataframe!')
```

Data read into a pandas dataframe!

Let's take a look at the first five items in our dataset.

[3]:	df <sub>.</sub>	_can.head()										
[3]:		Country	Continent	Region	DevName	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	•••
	0	Afghanistan	Asia	Southern Asia	Developing regions	16	39	39	47	71	340	
	1	Albania	Europe	Southern Europe	Developed regions	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	2	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	Developing regions	80	67	71	69	63	44	
	3	American Samoa	Oceania	Polynesia	Developing regions	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	4	Andorra	Europe	Southern Europe	Developed regions	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	5 rc	ows × 39 colu	ımns									

Let's find out how many entries there are in our dataset.

```
In [4]: # print the dimensions of the dataframe
print(df_can.shape)

(195, 39)
```

Set the country name as index - useful for quickly looking up countries using .loc method.

```
In [5]: df_can.set_index('Country', inplace=True)

# Let's view the first five elements and see how the dataframe was changed
    df_can.head()
```

Out[5]:		Continent	Region	DevName	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
	Country										
	Afghanistan	Asia	Southern Asia	Developing regions	16	39	39	47	71	340	496
	Albania	Europe	Southern Europe	Developed regions	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	Developing regions	80	67	71	69	63	44	69
	American Samoa	Oceania	Polynesia	Developing regions	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Andorra	Europe	Southern Europe	Developed regions	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

5 rows × 38 columns

Notice now the country names now serve as indices.

```
In [6]: print('data dimensions:', df_can.shape)
    data dimensions: (195, 38)
In [7]: # finally, let's create a list of years from 1980 - 2013
    # this will come in handy when we start plotting the data
    years = list(map(str, range(1980, 2014)))
```

```
Out[7]: ['1980',
           '1981',
           '1982',
           '1983',
           '1984',
           '1985',
           '1986',
           '1987',
           '1988',
           '1989',
           '1990',
           '1991',
           '1992',
           '1993',
           '1994',
           '1995',
           '1996',
           '1997',
           '1998',
           '1999',
           '2000',
           '2001',
           '2002',
           '2003',
           '2004',
           '2005',
           '2006',
           '2007',
           '2008',
           '2009',
           '2010',
           '2011',
           '2012',
           '2013']
```

# **Area Plots**

In the last module, we created a line plot that visualized the top 5 countries that contribued the most immigrants to Canada from 1980 to 2013. With a little modification to the code, we can visualize this plot as a cumulative plot, also knows as a **Stacked Line Plot** or **Area plot**.

```
In [8]: df_can.sort_values(['Total'], ascending=False, axis=0, inplace=True)

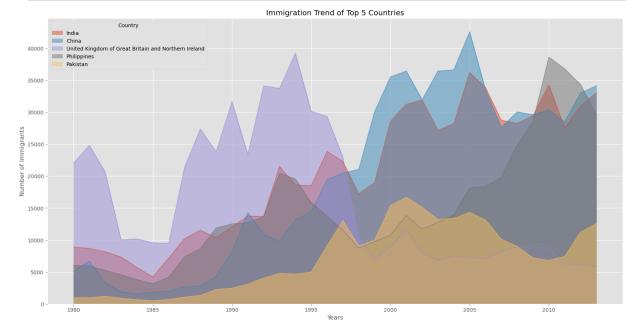
# get the top 5 entries
df_top5 = df_can.head()

# transpose the dataframe
df_top5 = df_top5[years].transpose()

df_top5.head()
```

Out[8]:	Country	India	China	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Philippines	Pakistan
	1980	8880	5123	22045	6051	978
	1981	8670	6682	24796	5921	972
	1982	8147	3308	20620	5249	1201
	1983	7338	1863	10015	4562	900
	1984	5704	1527	10170	3801	668

Area plots are stacked by default. And to produce a stacked area plot, each column must be either all positive or all negative values (any NaN, i.e. not a number, values will default to 0). To produce an unstacked plot, set parameter stacked to value False.

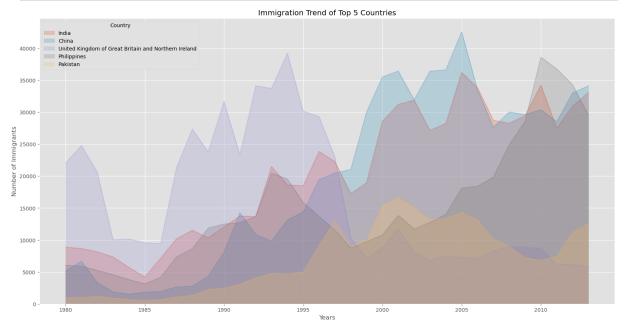


The unstacked plot has a default transparency (alpha value) at 0.5. We can modify this value by passing in the alpha parameter.

```
figsize=(20, 10))

plt.title('Immigration Trend of Top 5 Countries')
plt.ylabel('Number of Immigrants')
plt.xlabel('Years')

plt.show()
```



# Two types of plotting

As we discussed in the video lectures, there are two styles/options of plotting with matplotlib, plotting using the Artist layer and plotting using the scripting layer.

### Option 1: Scripting layer (procedural method) - using matplotlib.pyplot as 'plt'

You can use plt i.e. matplotlib.pyplot and add more elements by calling different methods procedurally; for example, plt.title(...) to add title or plt.xlabel(...) to add label to the x-axis.

```
# Option 1: This is what we have been using so far
    df_top5.plot(kind='area', alpha=0.35, figsize=(20, 10))
    plt.title('Immigration trend of top 5 countries')
    plt.ylabel('Number of immigrants')
    plt.xlabel('Years')
```

# Option 2: Artist layer (Object oriented method) - using an Axes instance from Matplotlib (preferred)

You can use an Axes instance of your current plot and store it in a variable (eg. ax ). You can add more elements by calling methods with a little change in syntax (by adding "set\_" to the previous methods). For example, use ax.set\_title() instead of plt.title() to add title, or ax.set\_xlabel() instead of plt.xlabel() to add label to the x-axis.

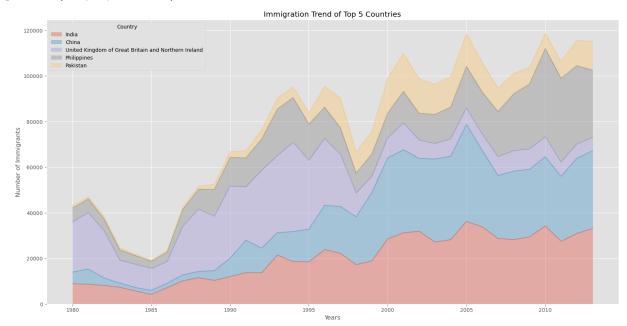
This option sometimes is more transparent and flexible to use for advanced plots (in particular when having multiple plots, as you will see later).

In this course, we will stick to the **scripting layer**, except for some advanced visualizations where we will need to use the **artist layer** to manipulate advanced aspects of the plots.

```
In [11]: # option 2: preferred option with more flexibility
    ax = df_top5.plot(kind='area', alpha=0.35, figsize=(20, 10))

ax.set_title('Immigration Trend of Top 5 Countries')
    ax.set_ylabel('Number of Immigrants')
    ax.set_xlabel('Years')
```

### Out[11]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Years')



**Question**: Use the scripting layer to create a stacked area plot of the 5 countries that contributed the least to immigration to Canada **from** 1980 to 2013. Use a transparency value of 0.45.

```
In [14]: #The correct answer is:
    # get the 5 countries with the least contribution
    df_can.tail(5)
    df_least5 = df_can.tail(5)

# transpose the dataframe
    df_least5 = df_least5[years].transpose()
    df_least5.head()

df_least5.index = df_least5.index.map(int) # let's change the index values of df_
    df_least5.plot(kind='area', alpha=0.45, figsize=(20, 10))

plt.title('Immigration Trend of 5 Countries with Least Contribution to Immigratic plt.ylabel('Number of Immigrants')
    plt.xlabel('Years')
```

```
plt.show()

File "/tmp/ipykernel_78/2169570735.py", line 3
    df_can.tail(5)
    ^
IndentationError: unexpected indent
```

► Click here for a sample python solution

**Question**: Use the artist layer to create an unstacked area plot of the 5 countries that contributed the least to immigration to Canada **from** 1980 to 2013. Use a transparency value of 0.55.

```
In [ ]: ### type your answer here
```

► Click here for a sample python solution

# Histograms

A histogram is a way of representing the *frequency* distribution of numeric dataset. The way it works is it partitions the x-axis into *bins*, assigns each data point in our dataset to a bin, and then counts the number of data points that have been assigned to each bin. So the y-axis is the frequency or the number of data points in each bin. Note that we can change the bin size and usually one needs to tweak it so that the distribution is displayed nicely.

**Question:** What is the frequency distribution of the number (population) of new immigrants from the various countries to Canada in 2013?

Before we proceed with creating the histogram plot, let's first examine the data split into intervals. To do this, we will us **Numpy**'s histrogram method to get the bin ranges and frequency counts as follows:

```
In [15]: # Let's quickly view the 2013 data
         df_can['2013'].head()
Out[15]: Country
         India
                                                                   33087
         China
                                                                   34129
         United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
                                                                   5827
                                                                   29544
         Philippines
         Pakistan
                                                                   12603
         Name: 2013, dtype: int64
In [16]: # np.histogram returns 2 values
         count, bin_edges = np.histogram(df_can['2013'])
         print(count) # frequency count
         print(bin edges) # bin ranges, default = 10 bins
```

```
[178 11 1 2 0 0 0 0 1 2]
[ 0. 3412.9 6825.8 10238.7 13651.6 17064.5 20477.4 23890.3 27303.2 30716.1 34129.]
```

By default, the histrogram method breaks up the dataset into 10 bins. The figure below summarizes the bin ranges and the frequency distribution of immigration in 2013. We can see that in 2013:

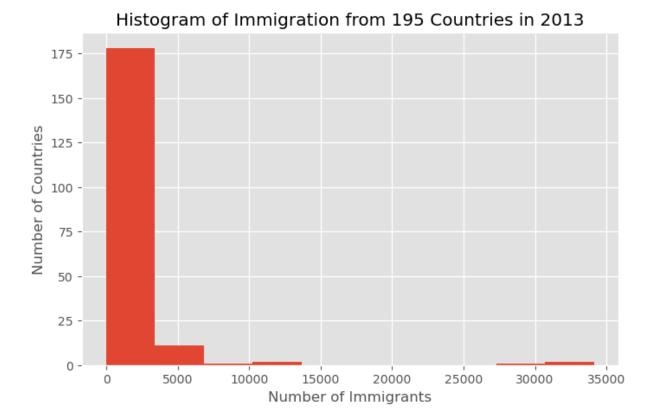
- 178 countries contributed between 0 to 3412.9 immigrants
- 11 countries contributed between 3412.9 to 6825.8 immigrants
- 1 country contributed between 6285.8 to 10238.7 immigrants, and so on..

200	Bin 1	Bin 2	Bin 3	Bin 4	Bin 5	Bin 6	Bin 7	Bin 8	Bin 9	Bin 10
	0.	3412.9	6825.8	10238.7	13651.6	17064.5	20477.4	23890.3	27303.2	30716.1
Range	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
	3412.9	6825.8	10238.7	13651.6	17064.5	20477.4	23890.3	27303.2	30716.1	34129.
Frequency	178	11	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2

We can easily graph this distribution by passing kind=hist to plot().

```
In [17]: df_can['2013'].plot(kind='hist', figsize=(8, 5))

# add a title to the histogram
plt.title('Histogram of Immigration from 195 Countries in 2013')
# add y-label
plt.ylabel('Number of Countries')
# add x-label
plt.xlabel('Number of Immigrants')
plt.show()
```



In the above plot, the x-axis represents the population range of immigrants in intervals of 3412.9. The y-axis represents the number of countries that contributed to the aforementioned population.

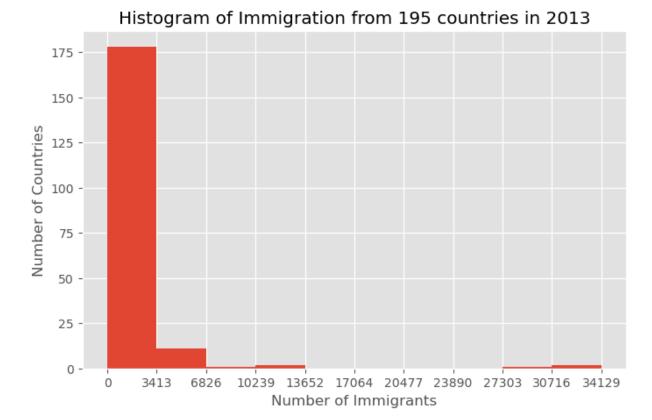
Notice that the x-axis labels do not match with the bin size. This can be fixed by passing in a xticks keyword that contains the list of the bin sizes, as follows:

```
In [18]: # 'bin_edges' is a list of bin intervals
    count, bin_edges = np.histogram(df_can['2013'])

df_can['2013'].plot(kind='hist', figsize=(8, 5), xticks=bin_edges)

plt.title('Histogram of Immigration from 195 countries in 2013') # add a title to the plt.ylabel('Number of Countries') # add y-label
    plt.xlabel('Number of Immigrants') # add x-label

plt.show()
```



Side Note: We could use df\_can['2013'].plot.hist(), instead. In fact, throughout this lesson, using some\_data.plot(kind='type\_plot', ...) is equivalent to some\_data.plot.type\_plot(...). That is, passing the type of the plot as argument or method behaves the same.

See the *pandas* documentation for more info http://pandas.pydata.org/pandas-docs/stable/generated/pandas.Series.plot.html.

We can also plot multiple histograms on the same plot. For example, let's try to answer the following questions using a histogram.

**Question**: What is the immigration distribution for Denmark, Norway, and Sweden for years 1980 - 2013?

```
In [19]: # Let's quickly view the dataset
df_can.loc[['Denmark', 'Norway', 'Sweden'], years]
```

<

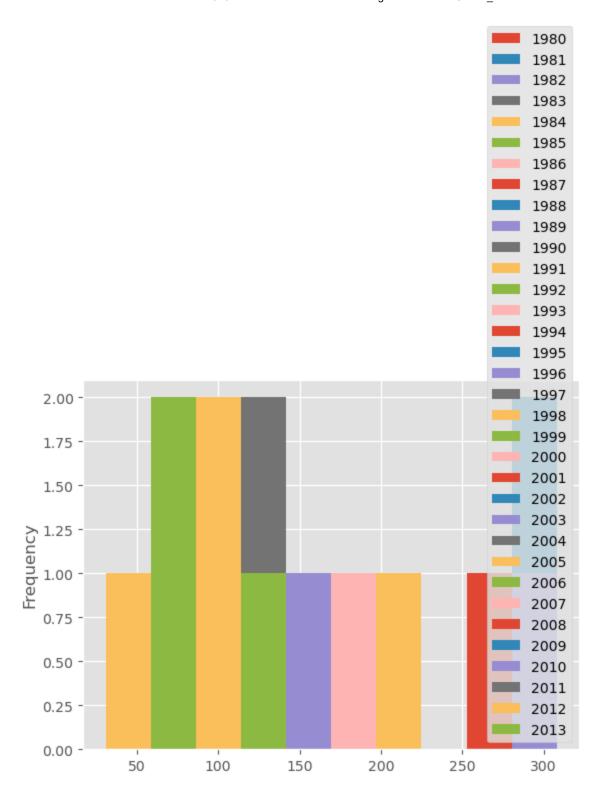
```
Out[19]:
                    1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 ... 2004 2005 2
          Country
          Denmark
                     272
                           293
                                299
                                       106
                                                              109
                                                                    129
                                                                                     89
                                                                                           62
                                             93
                                                   73
                                                         93
                                                                          129
           Norway
                     116
                           77
                                106
                                       51
                                             31
                                                   54
                                                         56
                                                               80
                                                                     73
                                                                           76
                                                                                     73
                                                                                           57
           Sweden
                     281
                           308
                                222
                                       176
                                             128
                                                   158
                                                        187
                                                              198
                                                                    171
                                                                          182
                                                                                    129
                                                                                          205
```

3 rows × 34 columns

```
In [20]: # generate histogram
df_can.loc[['Denmark', 'Norway', 'Sweden'], years].plot.hist()
```

Out[20]: <AxesSubplot:ylabel='Frequency'>

>



That does not look right!

Don't worry, you'll often come across situations like this when creating plots. The solution often lies in how the underlying dataset is structured.

Instead of plotting the population frequency distribution of the population for the 3 countries, *pandas* instead plotted the population frequency distribution for the years.

This can be easily fixed by first transposing the dataset, and then plotting as shown below.

```
In [21]: # transpose dataframe
    df_t = df_can.loc[['Denmark', 'Norway', 'Sweden'], years].transpose()
    df_t.head()
```

### Out[21]: Country Denmark Norway Sweden

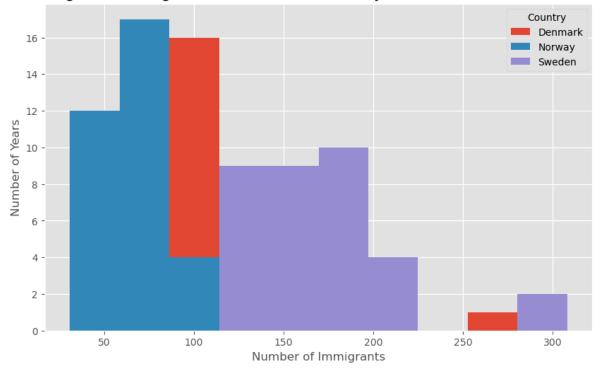
•		•	
1980	272	116	281
1981	293	77	308
1982	299	106	222
1983	106	51	176
1984	93	31	128

```
In [22]: # generate histogram
    df_t.plot(kind='hist', figsize=(10, 6))

plt.title('Histogram of Immigration from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden from 1980 - 2013
    plt.ylabel('Number of Years')
    plt.xlabel('Number of Immigrants')

plt.show()
```

### Histogram of Immigration from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden from 1980 - 2013

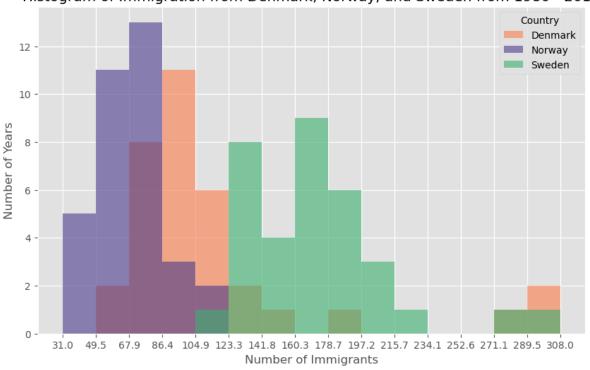


Let's make a few modifications to improve the impact and aesthetics of the previous plot:

- increase the bin size to 15 by passing in bins parameter;
- set transparency to 60% by passing in alpha parameter;
- label the x-axis by passing in x-label parameter;

• change the colors of the plots by passing in color parameter.

### Histogram of Immigration from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden from 1980 - 2013

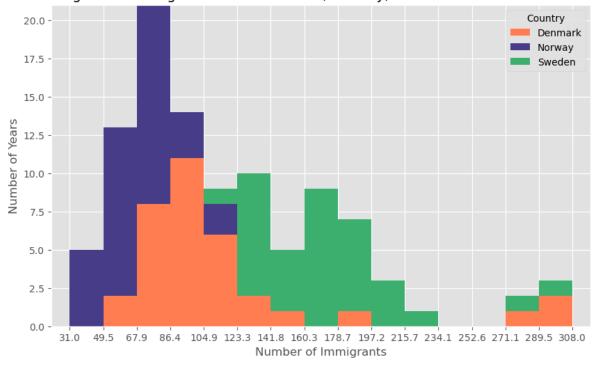


Tip: For a full listing of colors available in Matplotlib, run the following code in your python shell:

```
import matplotlib
for name, hex in matplotlib.colors.cnames.items():
    print(name, hex)
```

If we do not want the plots to overlap each other, we can stack them using the stacked parameter. Let's also adjust the min and max x-axis labels to remove the extra gap on the edges of the plot. We can pass a tuple (min,max) using the xlim paramater, as show below.

### Histogram of Immigration from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden from 1980 - 2013



**Question**: Use the scripting layer to display the immigration distribution for Greece, Albania, and Bulgaria for years 1980 - 2013? Use an overlapping plot with 15 bins and a transparency value of 0.35.

```
In [25]: ### type your answer here

#The correct answer is:

    # create a dataframe of the countries of interest (cof)
    df_cof = df_can.loc[['Greece', 'Albania', 'Bulgaria'], years]
```

```
# transpose the dataframe
   df_cof = df_cof.transpose()
   # let's get the x-tick values
   count, bin_edges = np.histogram(df_cof, 15)
   # Un-stacked Histogram
   df_cof.plot(kind ='hist',
               figsize=(10, 6),
                bins=15,
                alpha=0.35,
                xticks=bin edges,
                color=['coral', 'darkslateblue', 'mediumseagreen']
   plt.title('Histogram of Immigration from Greece, Albania, and Bulgaria from 1980
   plt.ylabel('Number of Years')
   plt.xlabel('Number of Immigrants')
   plt.show()
File "/tmp/ipykernel 78/3218865161.py", line 6
  df_cof = df_can.loc[['Greece', 'Albania', 'Bulgaria'], years]
```

► Click here for a sample python solution

IndentationError: unexpected indent

# **Bar Charts (Dataframe)**

A bar plot is a way of representing data where the *length* of the bars represents the magnitude/size of the feature/variable. Bar graphs usually represent numerical and categorical variables grouped in intervals.

To create a bar plot, we can pass one of two arguments via kind parameter in plot():

- kind=bar creates a vertical bar plot
- kind=barh creates a horizontal bar plot

### Vertical bar plot

In vertical bar graphs, the x-axis is used for labelling, and the length of bars on the y-axis corresponds to the magnitude of the variable being measured. Vertical bar graphs are particularly useful in analyzing time series data. One disadvantage is that they lack space for text labelling at the foot of each bar.

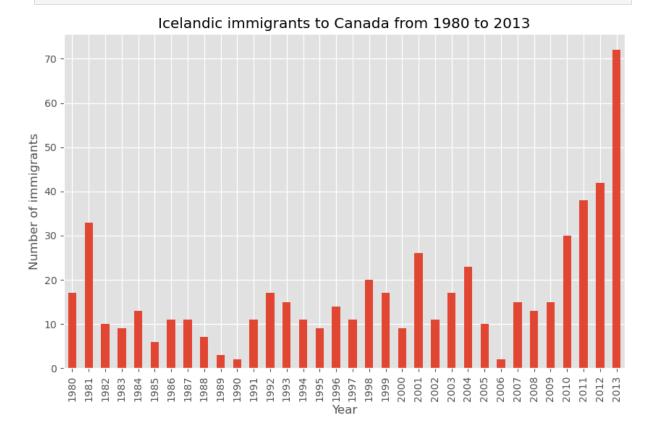
### Let's start off by analyzing the effect of Iceland's Financial Crisis:

The 2008 - 2011 Icelandic Financial Crisis was a major economic and political event in Iceland. Relative to the size of its economy, Iceland's systemic banking collapse was the largest

experienced by any country in economic history. The crisis led to a severe economic depression in 2008 - 2011 and significant political unrest.

**Question:** Let's compare the number of Icelandic immigrants (country = 'Iceland') to Canada from year 1980 to 2013.

```
In [26]:
         # step 1: get the data
         df_iceland = df_can.loc['Iceland', years]
         df_iceland.head()
         1980
                  17
Out[26]:
         1981
                  33
         1982
                  10
         1983
                  9
         1984
                  13
         Name: Iceland, dtype: object
In [27]:
         # step 2: plot data
         df_iceland.plot(kind='bar', figsize=(10, 6))
         plt.xlabel('Year') # add to x-label to the plot
         plt.ylabel('Number of immigrants') # add y-label to the plot
         plt.title('Icelandic immigrants to Canada from 1980 to 2013') # add title to the plot
         plt.show()
```



The bar plot above shows the total number of immigrants broken down by each year. We can clearly see the impact of the financial crisis; the number of immigrants to Canada started increasing rapidly after 2008.

Let's annotate this on the plot using the annotate method of the **scripting layer** or the **pyplot interface**. We will pass in the following parameters:

- s : str, the text of annotation.
- xy: Tuple specifying the (x,y) point to annotate (in this case, end point of arrow).
- xytext: Tuple specifying the (x,y) point to place the text (in this case, start point of arrow).
- xycoords: The coordinate system that xy is given in 'data' uses the coordinate system of the object being annotated (default).
- arrowprops: Takes a dictionary of properties to draw the arrow:
  - arrowstyle : Specifies the arrow style, '->' is standard arrow.
  - connectionstyle : Specifies the connection type. arc3 is a straight line.
  - color : Specifies color of arrow.
  - 1w : Specifies the line width.

I encourage you to read the Matplotlib documentation for more details on annotations: https://matplotlib.org/stable/api/\_as\_gen/matplotlib.pyplot.annotate.html.

70

60

50

40

30

20

Number of Immigrants

# Icelandic Immigrants to Canada from 1980 to 2013

Let's also annotate a text to go over the arrow. We will pass in the following additional parameters:

year Year

1998 1999 2000 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

2001

2008

2009

rotation: rotation angle of text in degrees (counter clockwise)

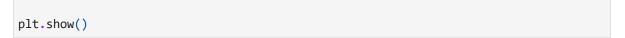
1992 1993 1994 1995

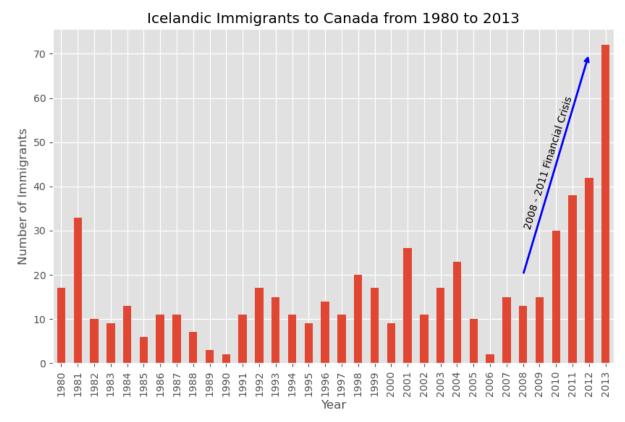
1991

- va : vertical alignment of text ['center' | 'top' | 'bottom' | 'baseline']
- ha: horizontal alignment of text ['center' | 'right' | 'left']

1989

```
df_iceland.plot(kind='bar', figsize=(10, 6), rot=90)
In [29]:
         plt.xlabel('Year')
         plt.ylabel('Number of Immigrants')
         plt.title('Icelandic Immigrants to Canada from 1980 to 2013')
         # Annotate arrow
         plt.annotate('', # s: str. will leave it blank for no text
                      xy=(32, 70), # place head of the arrow at point (year 2012, pop 70)
                      xytext=(28, 20), # place base of the arrow at point (year 2008, pop 20
                      xycoords='data', # will use the coordinate system of the object being d
                      arrowprops=dict(arrowstyle='->', connectionstyle='arc3', color='blue', ]
         # Annotate Text
         plt.annotate('2008 - 2011 Financial Crisis', # text to display
                      xy=(28, 30), # start the text at at point (year 2008, pop 30)
                      rotation=72.5, # based on trial and error to match the arrow
                      va='bottom', # want the text to be vertically 'bottom' aligned
                      ha='left', # want the text to be horizontally 'left' algned.
                      )
```





### **Horizontal Bar Plot**

Sometimes it is more practical to represent the data horizontally, especially if you need more room for labelling the bars. In horizontal bar graphs, the y-axis is used for labelling, and the length of bars on the x-axis corresponds to the magnitude of the variable being measured. As you will see, there is more room on the y-axis to label categorical variables.

**Question:** Using the scripting later and the df\_can dataset, create a *horizontal* bar plot showing the *total* number of immigrants to Canada from the top 15 countries, for the period 1980 - 2013. Label each country with the total immigrant count.

Step 1: Get the data pertaining to the top 15 countries.

In [ ]: ### type your answer here

► Click here for a sample python solution

Step 2: Plot data:

- 1. Use kind='barh' to generate a bar chart with horizontal bars.
- 2. Make sure to choose a good size for the plot and to label your axes and to give the plot a title.

3. Loop through the countries and annotate the immigrant population using the anotate function of the scripting interface.

```
In [ ]: ### type your answer here
```

► Click here for a sample python solution

# Thank you for completing this lab!

# **Author**

Alex Aklson

### **Other Contributors**

Jay Rajasekharan, Ehsan M. Kermani, Slobodan Markovic, Weiqing Wang, Pooja.

© IBM Corporation 2020. All rights reserved.

```
toggle
{toggle}|

{toggle}|

{toggle}|

{toggle}|

{toggle}|

{toggle}|

{toggle}|
```

In [ ]: