

The data class

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Fork and clone repository
<https://git.aspp.school/ASPP/2024-heraklion-data.git>



Things one thinks about when thinking about data

Processing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efficient processing (no for-loops!)• Organizing data so that analyses are easy

Storage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Size• Access ease• Access time

Reproducibility and collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Versioning• Lineage tracing (which script / other data was used to generate this?)• Ease of sharing

Things one thinks about when thinking about data

Processing

- Efficient processing (no for-loops!)
- Organizing data so that analyses are easy

Storage

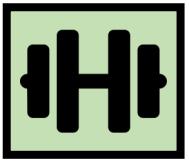
- Size
- Access ease
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Reproducibility and collaboration

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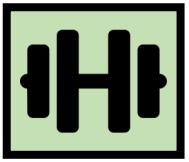
Hands-on

What data structure would you use to represent...

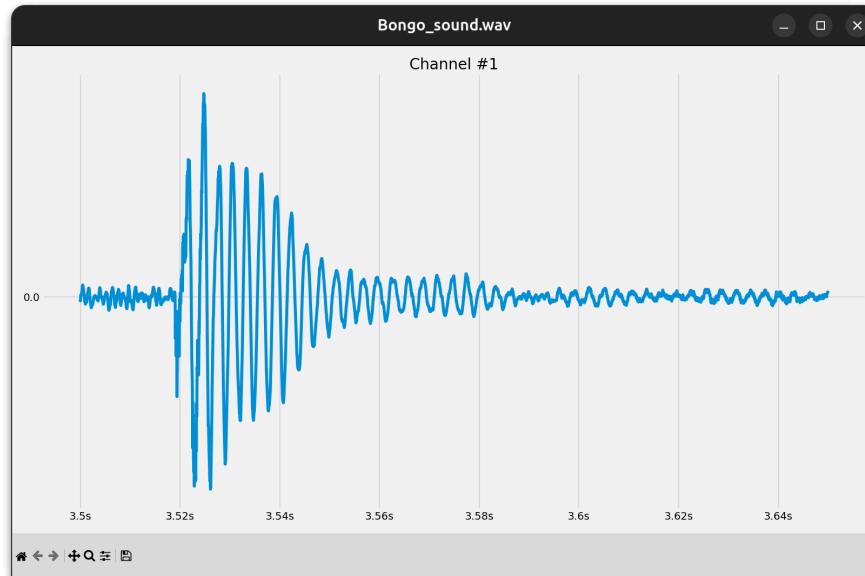


Hands-on

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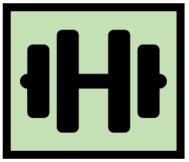


A sound wave?

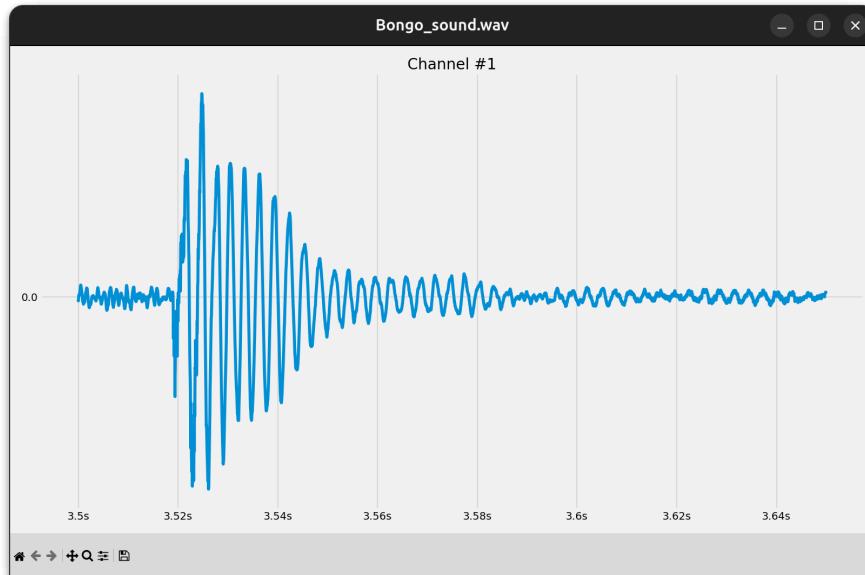


Hands-on

What data structure would you use to represent...



A sound wave?



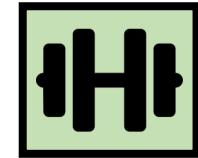
NumPy array

In [6]: `sound_data`

```
Out[6]: array([0.66709183, 0.55973494, 0.95416669, 0.60810949, 0.05188879,
 0.58619063, 0.25555136, 0.72451477, 0.2646681 , 0.08694215,
 0.75592186, 0.67261696, 0.62847452, 0.06232598, 0.20549438,
 0.11718457, 0.25184725, 0.48625729, 0.8103058 , 0.18100915,
 0.81113341, 0.62055231, 0.9046905 , 0.56664205, 0.73235338,
 0.74382869, 0.64856368, 0.80644398, 0.46199345, 0.78516632,
 0.91298397, 0.48290914, 0.20847714, 0.99162659, 0.26374781,
 0.3602381 , 0.07173351, 0.8584085 , 0.32248766, 0.39167573,
 0.67944923, 0.00930429, 0.21714217, 0.58810089, 0.17668711,
 0.57444803, 0.25760187, 0.43785728, 0.39119371, 0.68268063,
 0.95954499, 0.45934239, 0.03616905, 0.23896063, 0.61872801,
 0.76332531, 0.96272817, 0.57169277, 0.50225193, 0.01361629,
 0.15357459, 0.8057233 , 0.0642748 , 0.95013941, 0.38712684,
 0.97231498, 0.20261775, 0.74184693, 0.26629893, 0.84672705,
 0.67662718, 0.96055977, 0.64942314, 0.66487937, 0.86867536,
 0.40815661, 0.1139344 , 0.95638066, 0.87436447, 0.18407227,
 0.64457074, 0.19233097, 0.24012179, 0.90399279, 0.39093908,
 0.26389161, 0.97537645, 0.14209784, 0.75261696, 0.10078122,
 0.87468408, 0.77990102, 0.92983283, 0.45841805, 0.61470669,
 0.87939755, 0.09266009, 0.41177209, 0.46973971, 0.43152144])
```

Hands-on

What data structure would you use to represent...

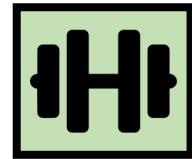


Phone book entries?

San Francisco	415 Margrave Fiduciary Advisors LLC	415 729-9283	Harrington's Moving & Storage	415
	415 9300 Bridgeway Sau		4415 Paradise Dr Tibn	415
	415 ARGREAVES David 276 Devon Dr S R	415 448-5180	HARRIS Adam 106 Baltimore Ave C M	415
an Tai Preparation & School Frfx	415 David & Becky 276 Devon Dr S R	415 479-3016	Alan & Christine	415
	415 Gordon 965 Magnolia Av Lrksp	415 924-2582	Andrew & Mary 8 Via Capistrano Tibn	415
	415 S	415 464-0822	Anne 102 Ryan Av M Vly	415
	415 William	415 388-3439	Anne 102 Ryan Av M Vly	415
Bally Chiropractic 645 Tamalpais Dr C M	415 William	415 388-4705	Anne 102 Ryan Av M Vly	415
	415 SARIRI Farhad & Mojgan	415 332-0287	Arlene L	415
	707 Farnoosh 187 Cazneau Ave Sau	415 332-7533	B	415
Berry-Sausalito Inc 669 Bridgeway Sau	415 MARKAVY Kamila	415 454-3136	Harris Baii bonds 775 E Blithedale AV M Vly	415
	415 Kamila	415 454-3416	HARRIS Barbara	415
	415 PARKER Howard 30 Ralston Av M Vly	415 383-9455	Barbra	415
	415 PARKER Teall 296 Union St S R	415 456-4818	Barry	415
an Licensed Acupuncturist	415 ARKIN John 20 Minor Ct S R	415 472-2452	Bernard & Bette	415
	415 ARKINS Edward 206 Evergreen Dr Knfhd	415 461-4116	Bernice	415
Jessica 88 Willow Frfx	415 ARLAN Carol R	415 669-7850	Bourke	415
	415 David	415 888-2112	Brent & Nanette 50 La Cuesta Laguntas	415
Thomaston Av M Vly	415 ARLAND C	415 663-9283	C	415
	415 ARLE Jonathan Gabrielle	415 889-5334		

Hands-on

What data structure would you use to represent...



Phone book entries?

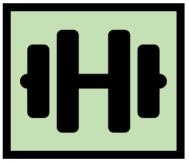
San Francisco	415 Margrave Fiduciary Advisors LLC	415 729-9283	Timony	415
	415 8030 Bridgeway Sau		Uta	415
	415 ARGREAVES David 276 Devon Dr S R	415 448-5184	Harrington's Moving & Storage	415
Janitor Preparation & School Frfrx	415 David & Becky 276 Devon Dr S R	415 479-3016	HARRIS Adam 106 Baltimore Ave C M	415
Marla	415 Gordon 965 Magnolia Av Lrksp	415 924-2582	Alan & Christine	415
Sarah Dr M Vly	415 S	415 464-0822	Andrew & Mary 8 Via Capistrano Tibn	415
Family Chiropractic 645 Tamalpais Dr C M	415 William	415 388-3439	Anne 102 Ryan Av M Vly	415
Frank L	415 William	415 388-4705	Anne 102 Ryan Av M Vly	415
	415 SARIRI Farhad & Mojgan	415 332-0287	Anne 102 Ryan Av M Vly	415
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Alley-Sausalito Inc	669 Bridgeway Sau	415 MARKAVY Kamila	B	415
Kamila	415 Kamila	415 454-3416	Harris Bail bonds 775 E Blithedale AV M Vly	415
Rundtree Wy S R	415 PARKER Howard 30 Ralston Av M Vly	415 383-9456	HARRIS Barbara	415
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Herl Rd Bins	415 MARLE Jonathan Gabrielle	415 889-5334	C	415

Pandas DataFrame

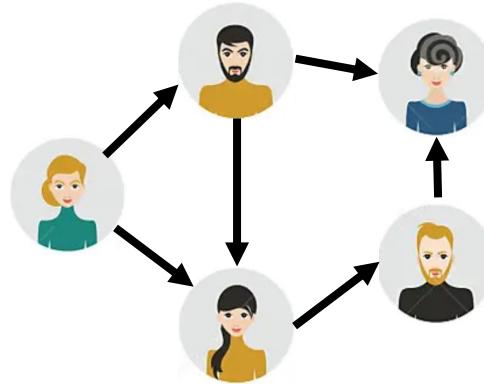
first_name	last_name	phone_nr	address	ZIP	city
John	Doe	555-1234	123 Maple St	12345	Springfield
Jane	Smith	555-5678	456 Oak St	67890	Rivertown
Alice	Johnson	555-8765	789 Pine St	54321	Lakeside
Bob	Brown	555-4321	321 Birch St	09876	Hilltop
Emma	Davis	555-7890	654 Elm St	11223	Greendale

Hands-on

What data structure would you use to represent...

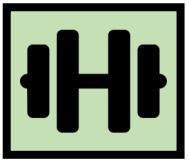


Friendship relations?

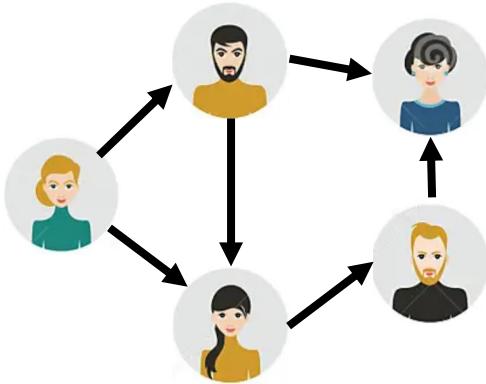


Hands-on

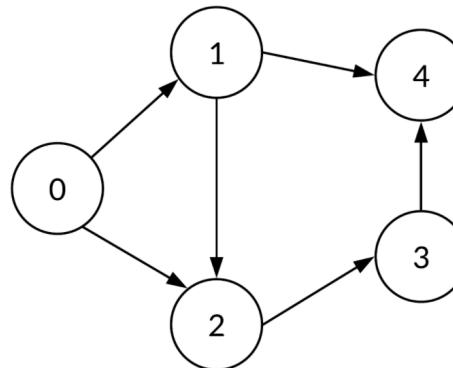
What data structure would you use to represent...



Friendship relations?



Graph



Implemented as

	0	1	2	3	4
0	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	1
2	0	0	0	1	0
3	0	0	0	0	1
4	0	0	0	0	0

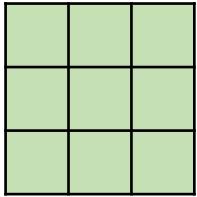
Adjacency matrix
(array)

```
A_dict = {  
    '0': [1, 2],  
    '1': [2],  
    '2': [3],  
    '3': [4],  
    '4': []  
}
```

Dictionary

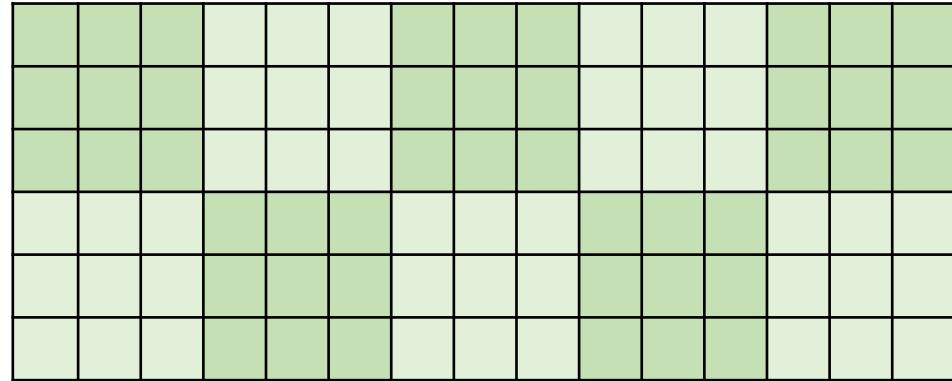
You develop your code on a small data set, how is it going to scale to the complete data set?

Development data



N data points,
Processing time T

Real data

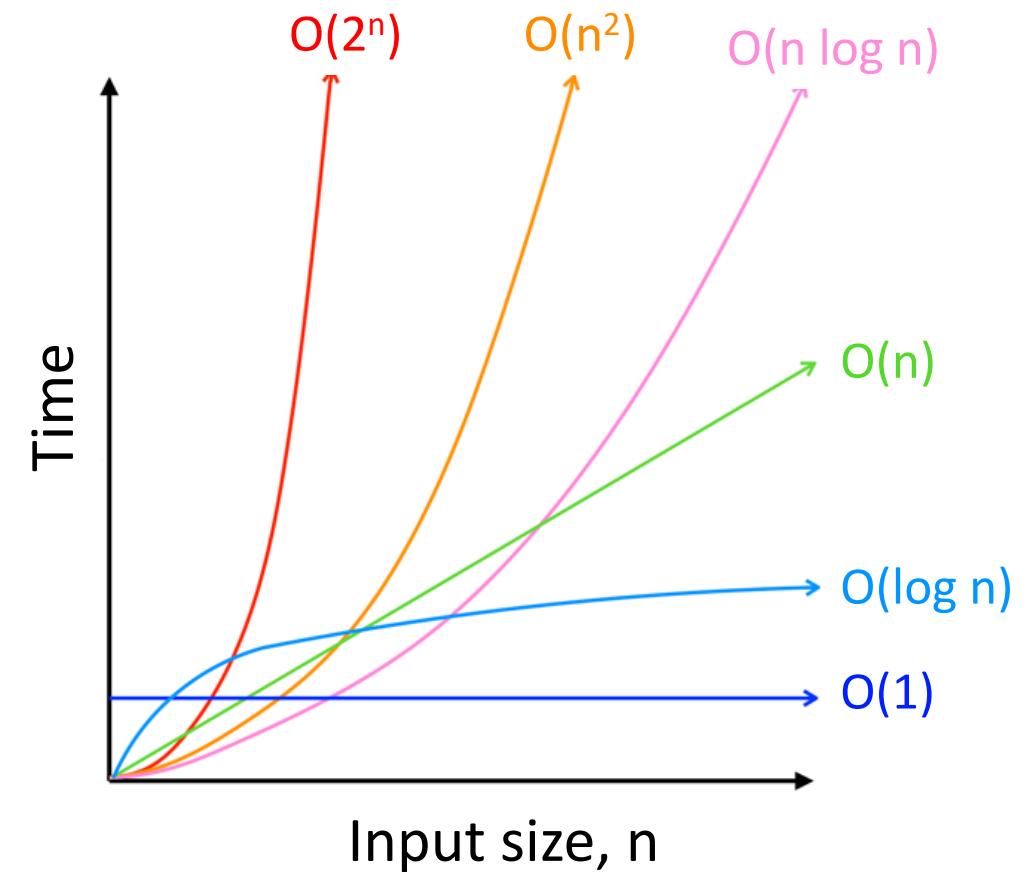


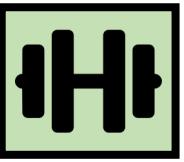
$10 \times N$ data points
Processing time -> ?

We're interested in orders of magnitude

How performance scales: big-O

Big-O class	What we call it	Time increase, when data increases 10x
$O(1)$	constant	1x time
$O(n)$	linear	10x time
$O(n^2)$	quadratic	100x time
$O(n * \log n)$	linearithmic	~10-20x time
$O(\log n)$	logarithmic	~1-2x time

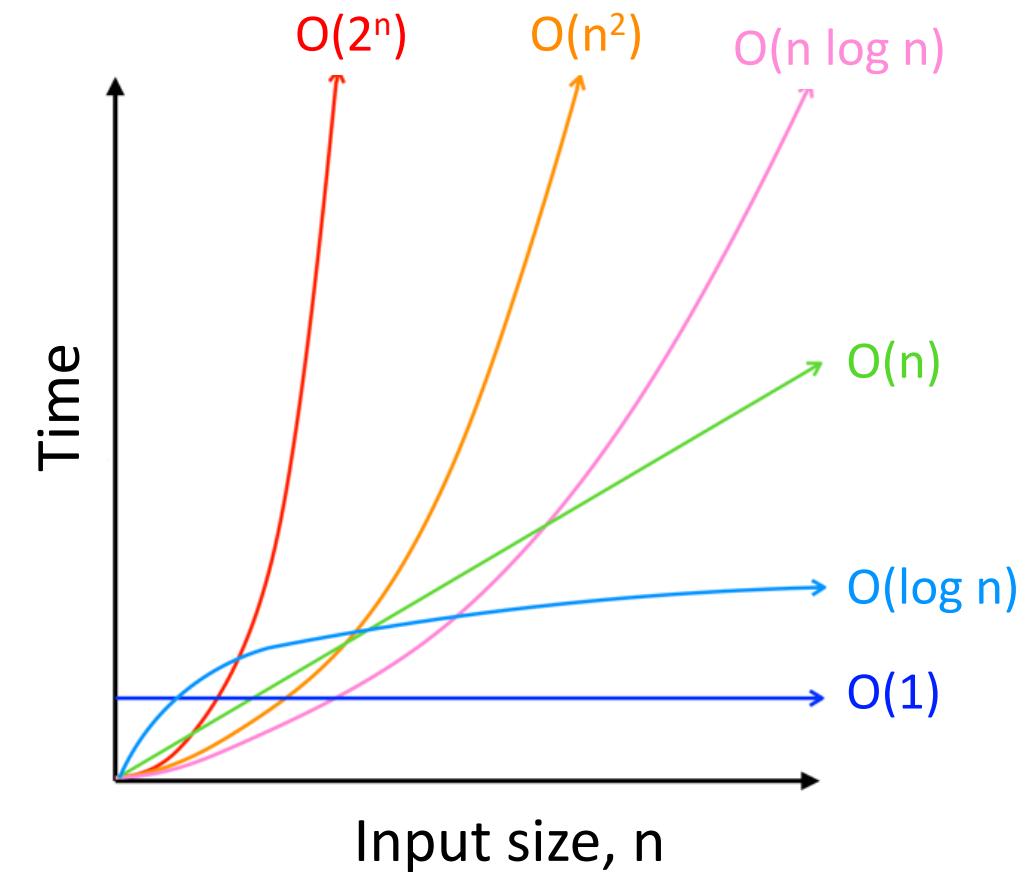


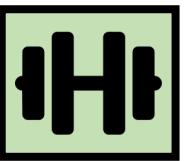


Hands-on: Operations on lists

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Big-O class	Operation on lists that scales this way
$O(1)$	
$O(n)$	
$O(n^2)$	
$O(n * \log n)$	
$O(\log n)$	

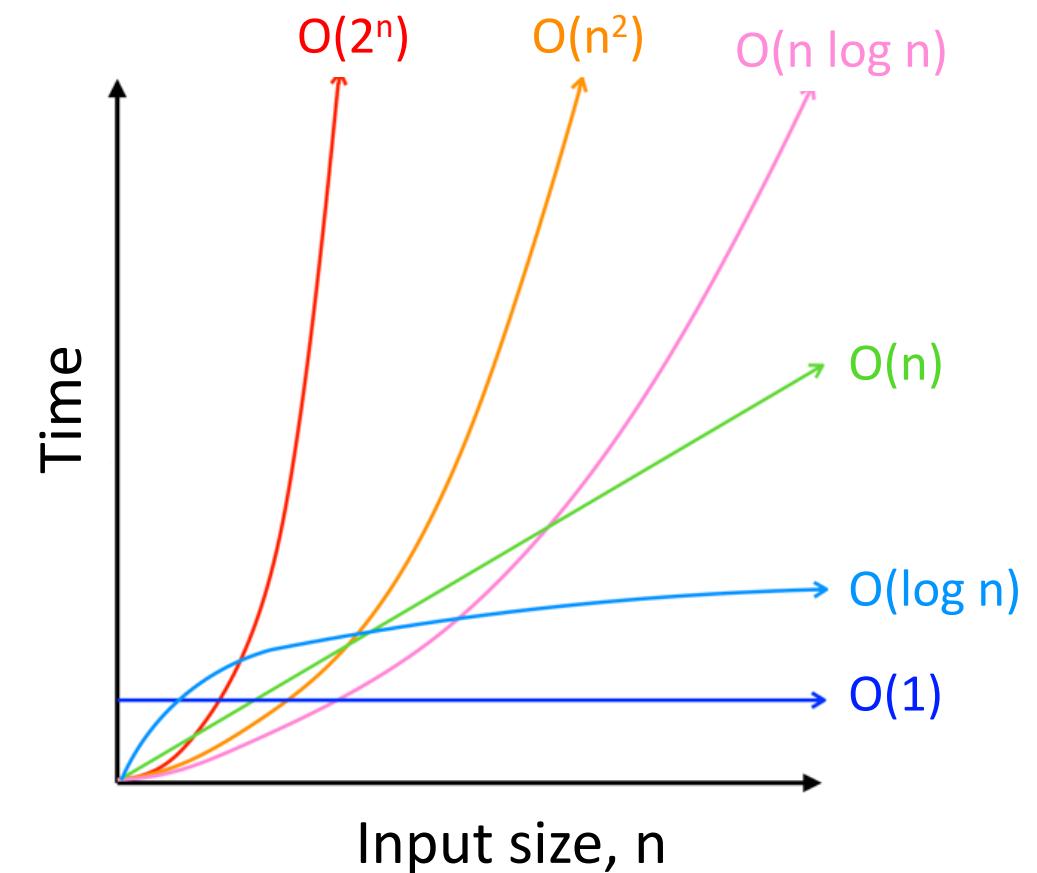




Hands-on: Operations on lists

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Big-O class	Operation on lists that scales this way
$O(1)$	Getting an element by its index
$O(n)$	Summing elements in list
$O(n^2)$	Computing distance between all pairs of elements in the list
$O(n * \log n)$	Sorting the list
$O(\log n)$	Searching an element in a sorted list



Example: Find common words

Given two lists of words, extract all the words that are in common

```
words1 = ['apple', 'orange', 'banana', 'melon', 'peach']
words2 = ['orange', 'kiwi', 'avocado', 'apple', 'banana']
```

Expected result: ['apple', 'orange', 'banana']

Implementation with two for-loops

```
words1 = ['apple', 'orange', 'banana', 'melon', 'peach']
words2 = ['orange', 'kiwi', 'avocado', 'apple', 'banana']

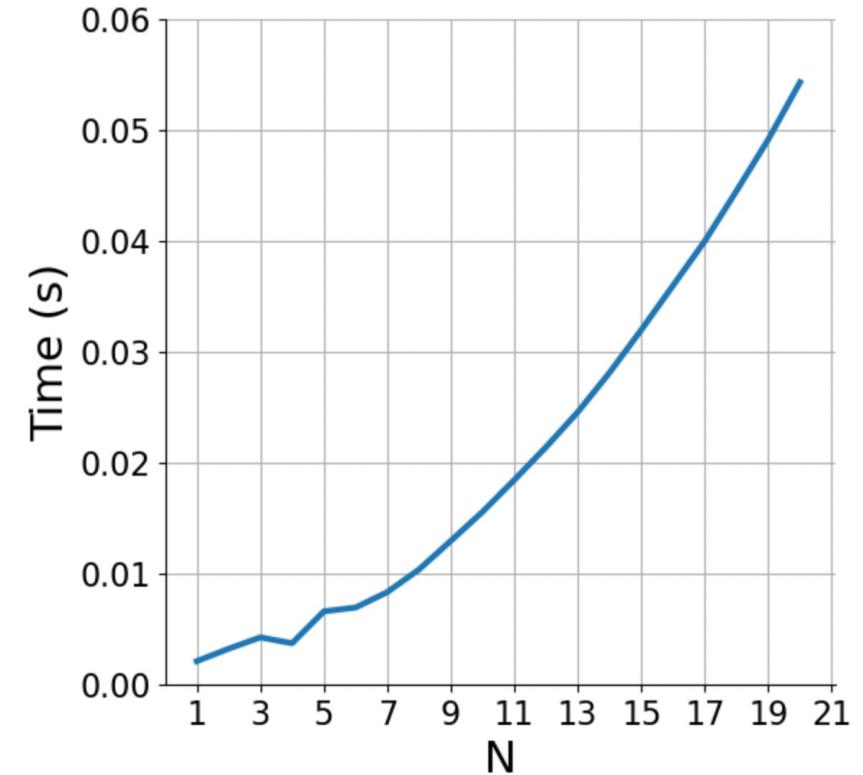
common = []
for w in words1:
    if w in words2:
        common.append(w)
```

What is the big-O complexity of this implementation?

Implementation with two for-loops

```
words1 = ['apple', 'orange', 'banana', 'melon', 'peach']
words2 = ['orange', 'kiwi', 'avocado', 'apple', 'banana']

common = []
for w in words1:      # O(N)
    if w in words2:    # O(N)
        common.append(w) # O(1)
```



What is the big-O complexity of this implementation?

$$N * N \sim O(N^2)$$

Implementation with sorted lists

```
words1 = ['apple', 'orange', 'banana', 'melon', 'peach']
words2 = ['orange', 'kiwi', 'avocado', 'apple', 'banana']

words1 = sorted(words1) # ['apple', 'banana', 'melon', 'orange', 'peach']
words2 = sorted(words2) # ['apple', 'avocado', 'banana', 'kiwi', 'orange']

common = []
idx2 = 0
for w in words1:
    while idx2 < len(words2) and words2[idx2] < w:
        idx2 += 1

    if idx2 >= len(words2):
        break

    if words2[idx2] == w:
        common.append(w)
```

What is the big-O complexity of this implementation?

Implementation with sorted lists

```
words1 = ['apple', 'orange', 'banana', 'melon', 'peach']
words2 = ['orange', 'kiwi', 'avocado', 'apple', 'banana']

words1 = sorted(words1)      #  $O(N * \log(N))$ 
words2 = sorted(words2)      #  $O(N * \log(N))$ 

common = []
idx2 = 0
for w in words1:              #  $O(N)$ 
    while idx2 < len(words2) and words2[idx2] < w: #  $O(N)$  in total
        idx2 += 1

    if idx2 >= len(words2): #  $O(1)$ 
        break

    if words2[idx2] == w:   #  $O(1)$ 
        common.append(w)
```



What is the big-O complexity of this implementation?

$$2 * (N * \log(N)) + 2 * N \sim O(N \log N)$$

Implementation with sets

```
words1 = ['apple', 'orange', 'banana', 'melon', 'peach']
words2 = ['orange', 'kiwi', 'avocado', 'apple', 'banana']

words2 = set(words2)

common = []
for w in words1:
    if w in words2:
        common.append(w)
```

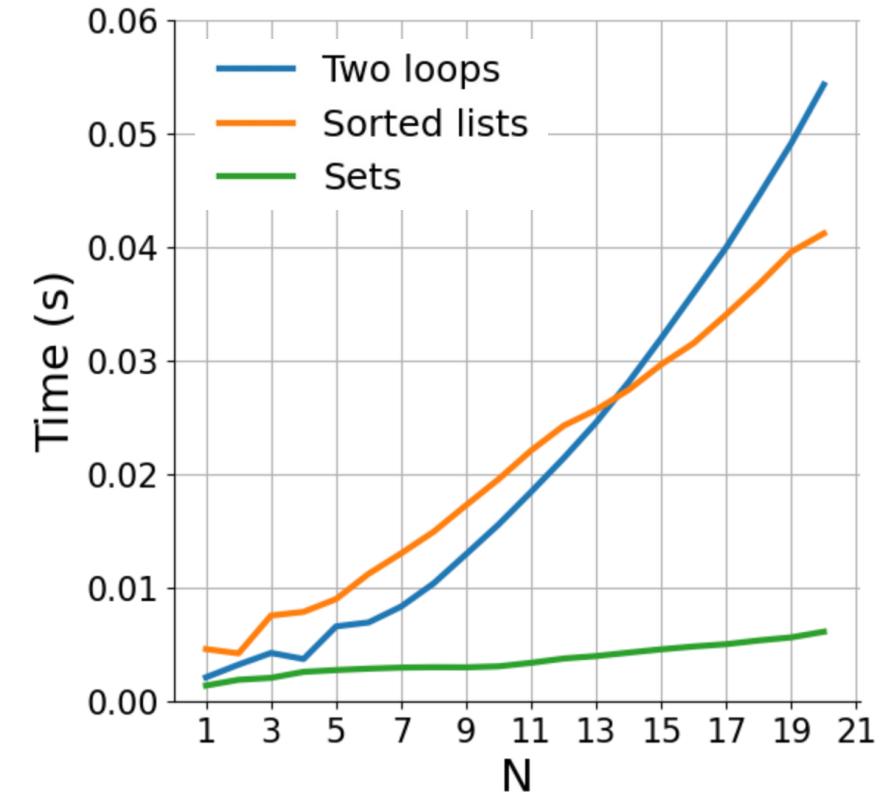
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Implementation with sets

```
words1 = ['apple', 'orange', 'banana', 'melon', 'peach']
words2 = ['orange', 'kiwi', 'avocado', 'apple', 'banana']

words2 = set(words2)      # O(N)

common = []
for w in words1:          # O(N)
    if w in words2:        # O(1)
        common.append(w)    # O(1)
```



What is the big-O complexity of this implementation?

$N + N \sim O(N)$

Basic reference sheet about Python data structures

Lists: collection of ordered,
arbitrary data

Getting an element by index	$O(1)$
Appending	$O(1)$
Inserting an element at index	$O(n)$
Sorting	$O(n \log n)$
Finding an element (e.g., “if element in my_list: ...”)	$O(n)$

Dictionaries (“hashmaps”)

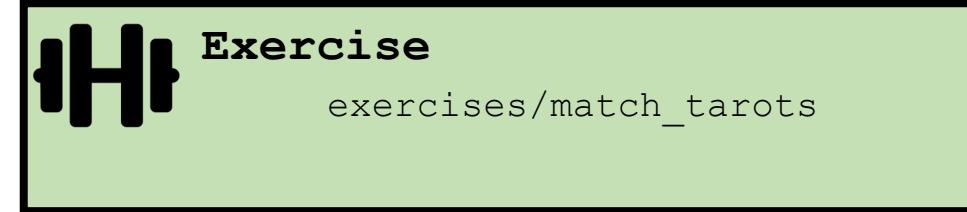
Inserting	$O(1)$
Finding a value by key (e.g., “if element in my_dict: ...”)	$O(1)$

Sets: it's dictionaries without values

Inserting	$O(1)$
Finding a value by key (e.g., “if element in my_set: ...”)	$O(1)$

See also: <https://wiki.python.org/moin/TimeComplexity>

Hands-on



- Open the notebook `match_tarots`, and follow the instructions!
- Submit a PR for Issue #7 on
`git.aspp.school/ASPP/2024-heraklion-data`

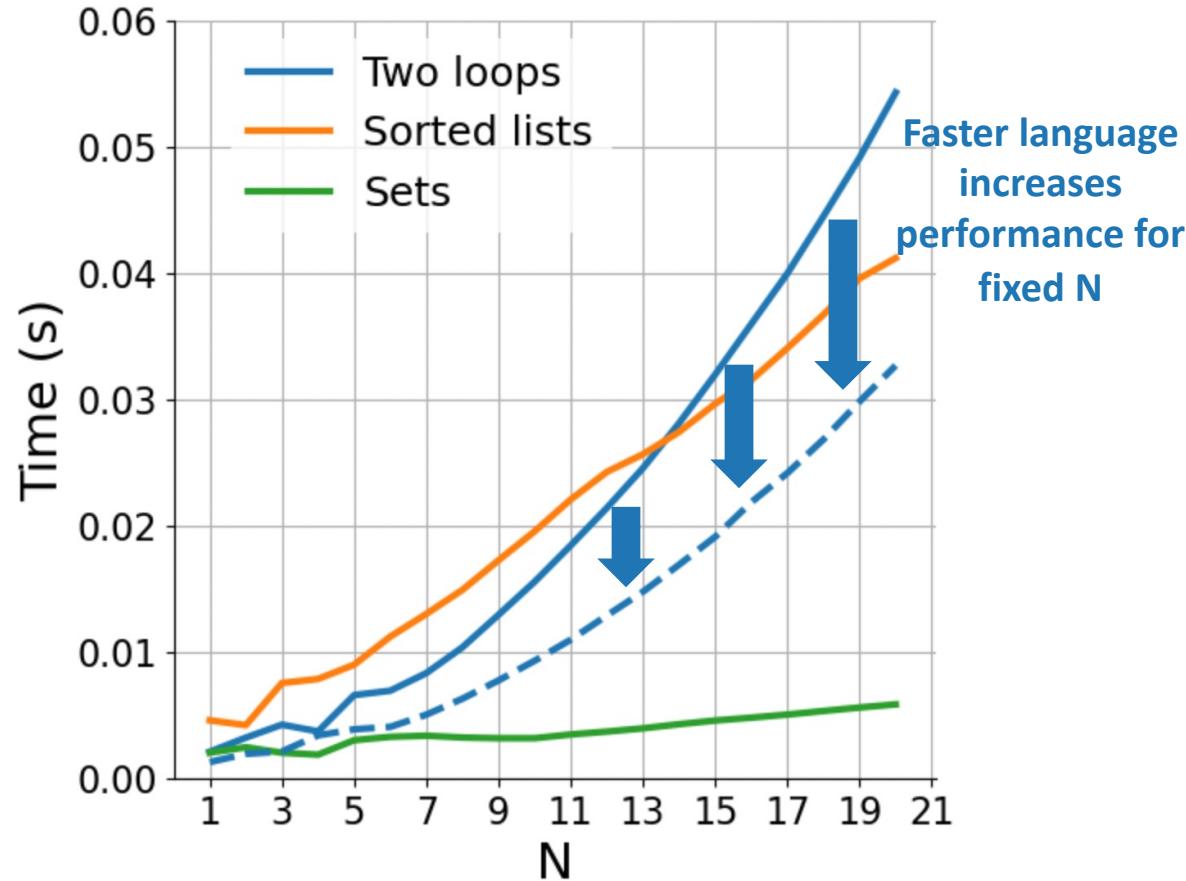
How does rewriting in C change the performance?

(rewriting in C, parallelization; same algorithm)



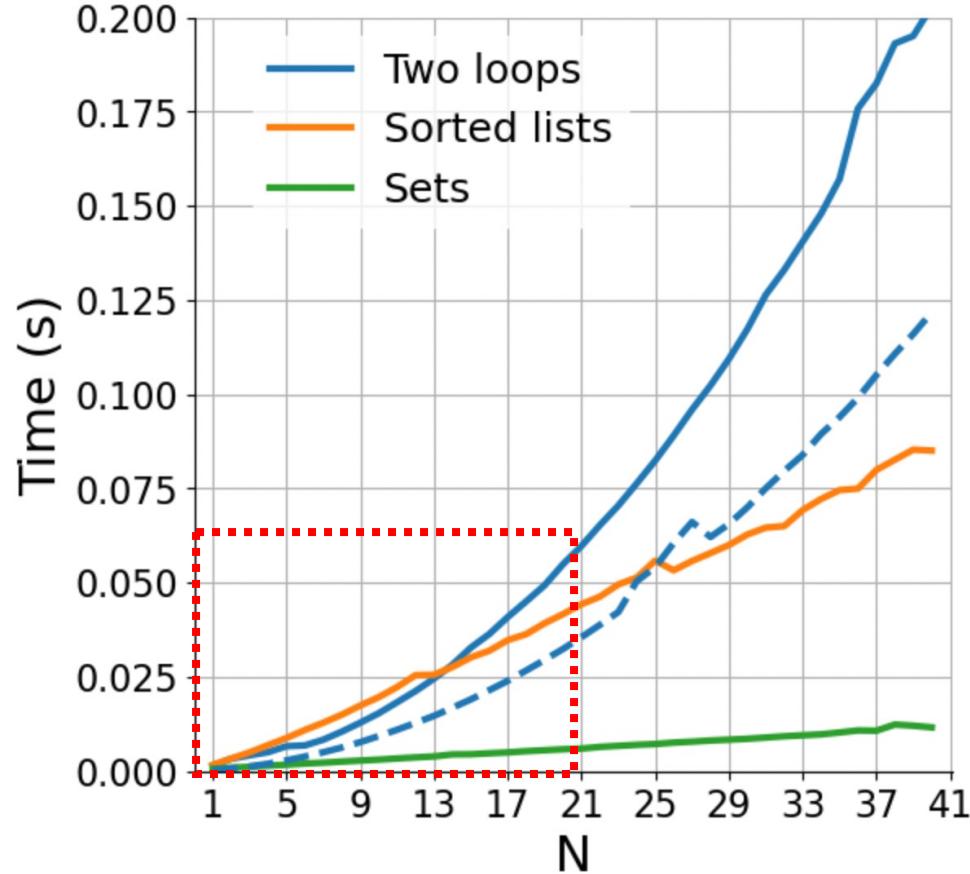
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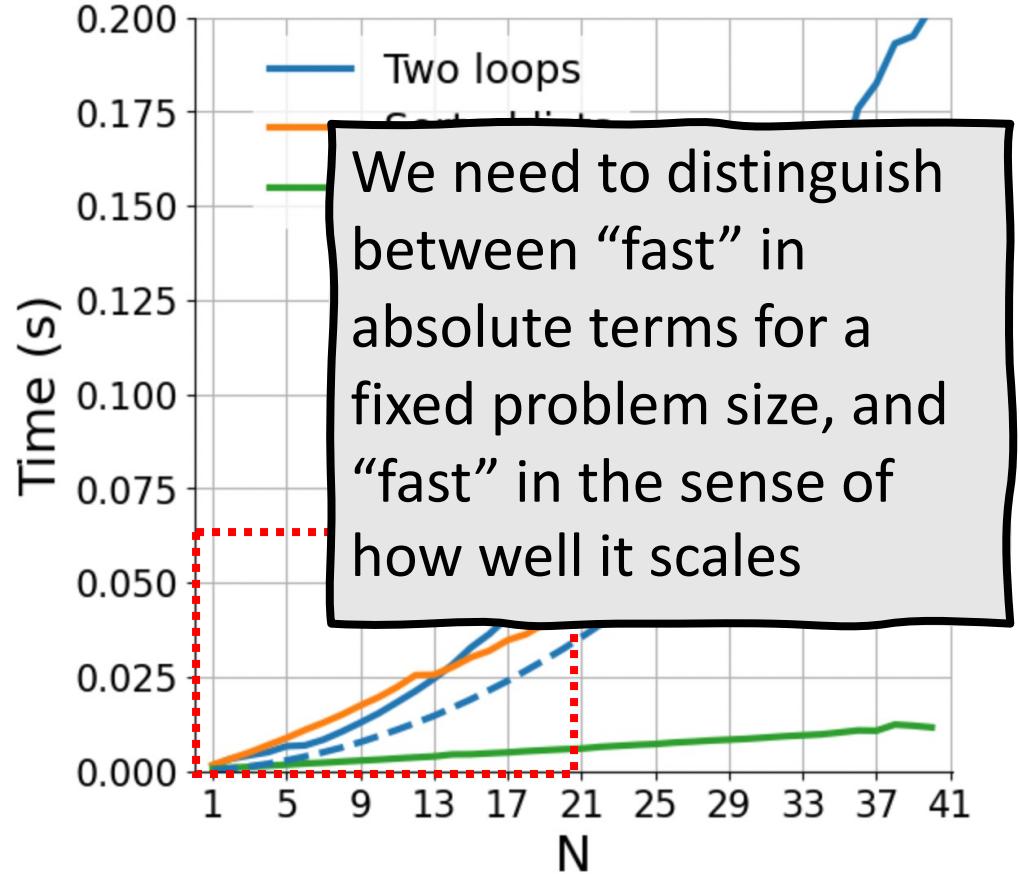
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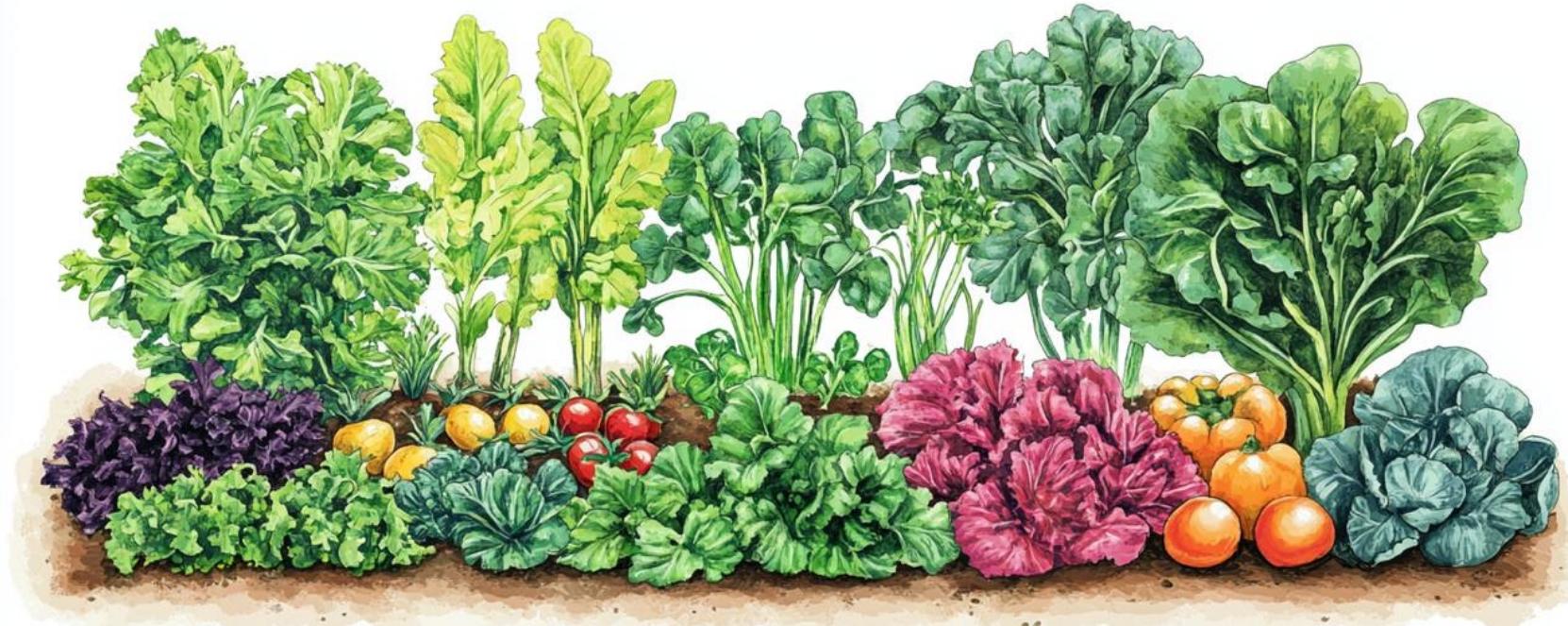
How does rewriting in C change the performance?

(rewriting in C, parallelization; same algorithm)



COMING UP NEXT: NumPy and the array data structure

NumPy



NumPy – huh, yeah – what's it good for?

- Introduces new data structure:
the array



An array is a regular, N-dimensional grid of data of the same type, typically numerical data

NumPy – huh, yeah – what's it good for?

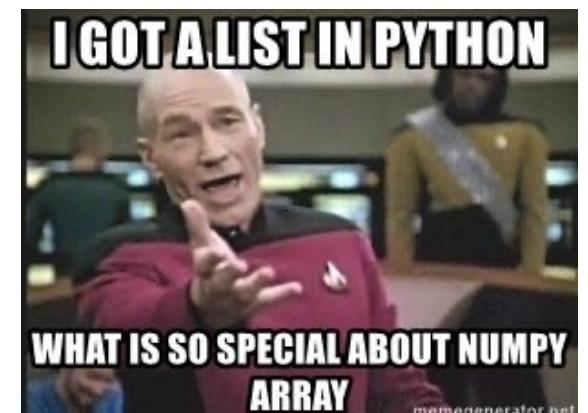
- Introduces new data structure:
the array



An array is a regular, N-dimensional grid of data of the same type, typically numerical data

- An array could be represented as a list-of-lists
- Why are NumPy arrays better than a list-of-lists?

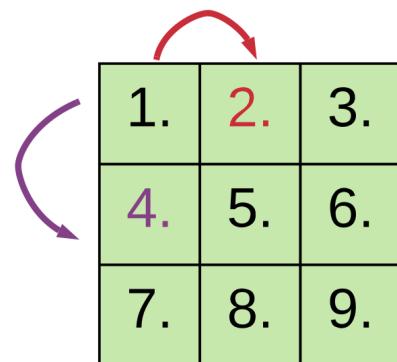
****Computer architecture class****



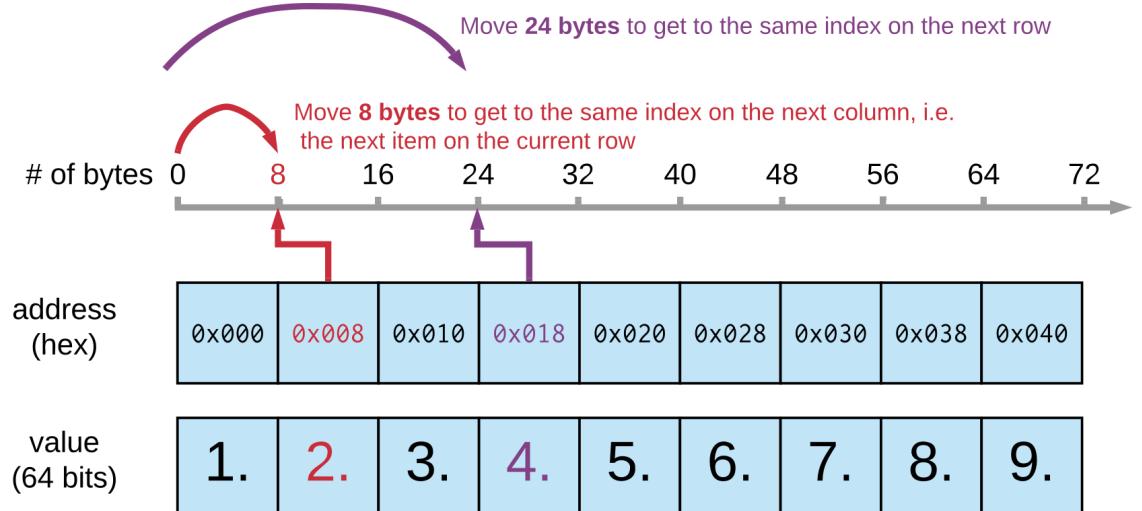
Efficiency of NumPy

1) Memory:

- data occupies the minimum amount of memory required
- some operations can be done without touching the memory at all!



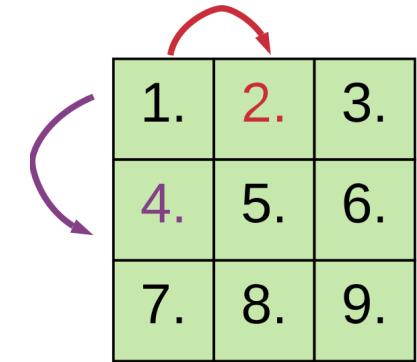
```
x = np.array([[1., 2., 3.],  
             [4., 5., 6.],  
             [7., 8., 9.]])  
x.dtype → dtype('float64') = 64 bits = 8 bytes  
x.shape → (3, 3)           x.itemsize → 8  
x.strides → (24, 8)         x.nbytes → 72
```



Efficiency of NumPy

1) Memory:

- data occupies the minimum amount of memory required
- some operations can be done without touching the memory at all!



2) Speed:

- Many operations can be done very efficiently in C. For this to be useful, we need to avoid Python for-loops at all costs!
 - operating on entire arrays rather than their individual elements
- “vectorize” the code

Vectorization

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 0 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & 4 \\ \hline 6 & 7 \\ \hline 9 & 10 \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 4 & 5 \\ \hline 7 & 8 \\ \hline 10 & 11 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

NumPy's memory efficiency



Memory block

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

int64

The array data is stored
in a contiguous
memory block, using
native data types

Memory block



int64

8 bytes

24 bytes

NumPy array metadata

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(3, 3)
strides	(24, 8)

Memory block



int64

8 bytes

24 bytes

NumPy array metadata

dtype	int64
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Metadata tells NumPy
how to interpret the
memory block

Memory block



int64

8 bytes

24 bytes

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NumPy view

0	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8



Memory block

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The same memory block can be interpreted in many ways

NumPy operation

```
x
```

```
x.ravel()
```

```
x.T
```

```
x[::2, ::2]
```

NumPy view

0	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

0	3	6
1	4	7
2	5	8

0	2
6	8

Memory block

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The same memory block can be interpreted in many ways

NumPy operation

x

x.ravel()

x.T

x[::2, ::2]

NumPy view

0	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

0	3	6
1	4	7
2	5	8

0	2
6	8



Memory block

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The same memory block can be interpreted in many ways

NumPy operation

```
x
```

NumPy array metadata

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(3, 3)
strides	(24, 8)

NumPy view

0	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

```
x.ravel()
```

dtype	int64
ndim	1
shape	(9,)
strides	(8,)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

```
x.T
```

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(3, 3)
strides	(8, 24)

0	3	6
1	4	7
2	5	8

```
x[::2, ::2]
```

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(2, 2)
strides	(48, 16)

0	2
6	8

Memory block

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

There are NumPy operations that can be performed just by changing the metadata

NumPy operation

very efficient --> $O(1)$

x

x.ravel()

x.T

x[::2, ::2]

NumPy array metadata

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(3, 3)
strides	(24, 8)

dtype	int64
ndim	1
shape	(9,)
strides	(8,)

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(3, 3)
strides	(8, 24)

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(2, 2)
strides	(48, 16)

NumPy view

0	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

0	3	6
1	4	7
2	5	8

0	2
6	8

Memory block

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The same memory block can be interpreted in many ways

NumPy operation

x

NumPy array metadata

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(3, 3)
strides	(24, 8)

NumPy view

0	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

How does the metadata look in this case?

x[[0, 1, 2], [1, 0, 1]]

dtype	
ndim	
shape	
strides	

1	3	7
---	---	---

Memory block

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The same memory block can be interpreted in many ways

NumPy operation

x

NumPy array metadata

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(3, 3)
strides	(24, 8)

NumPy view

0	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

Another memory block

1	3	7
---	---	---

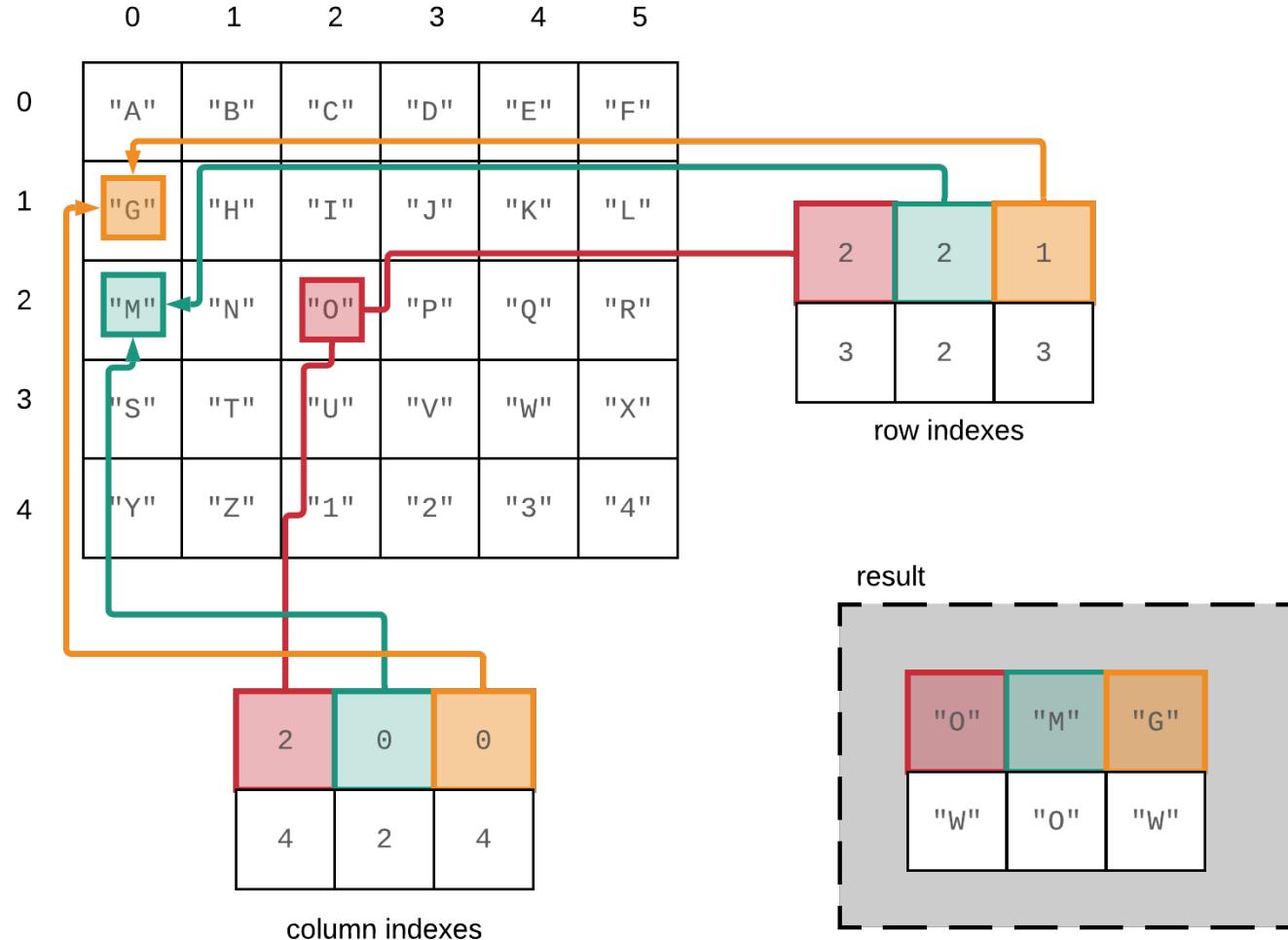
x[[0, 1, 2], [1, 0, 1]]

In this case new memory needs to be allocated

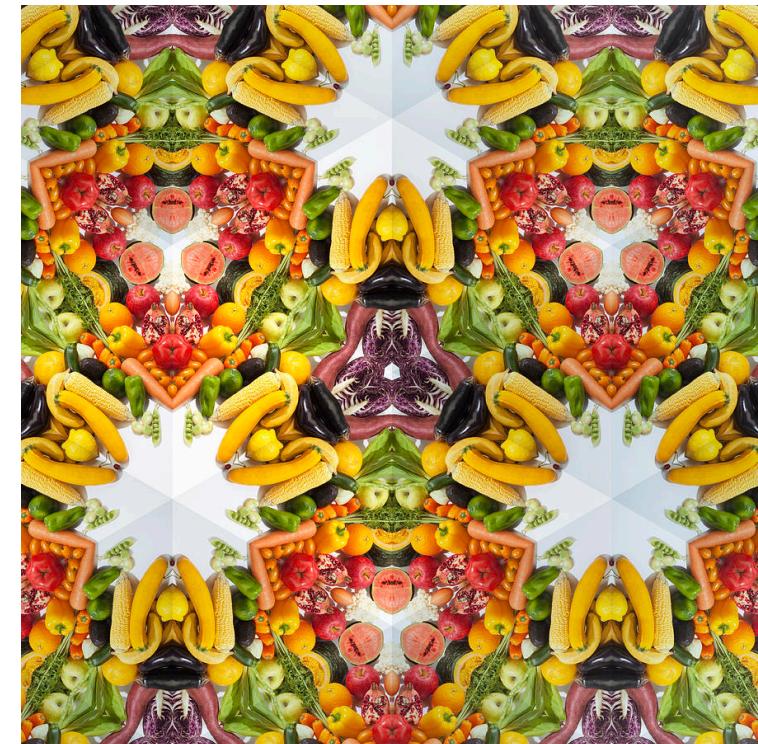
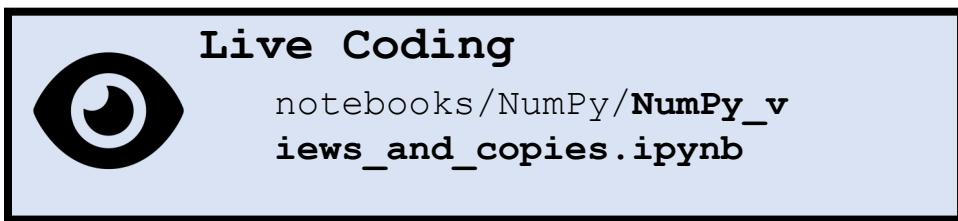
dtype	
ndim	
shape	
strides	

1	3	7
---	---	---

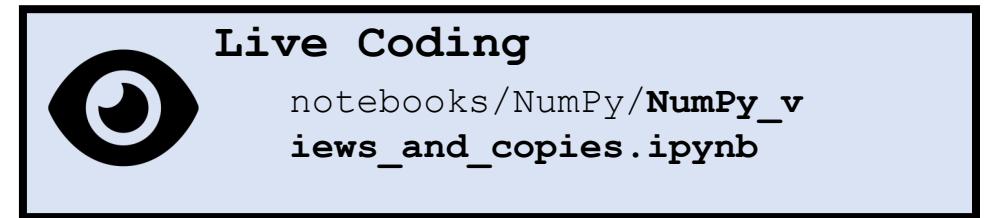
Fancy indexing in NumPy – reference slide



Operations that only change the metadata return a “view” of the original memory block, otherwise a new memory block needs to be allocated, returning a “copy”



NumPy views and copies



View

- accessing the array without changing the memory block
- slicing gives views
- in-place operations modify the memory block and all of its views

Copy

- when a copy of an array needs to be created, it allocates a separate memory block and associates it with a new metadata
- fancy indexing always gives copies
- a copy can be forced by method `.copy()`

NumPy views and copies

View

- accessing the array without changing the memory block
- slicing gives views
- in-place operations modify the memory block and all of its views

Copy

- when a copy of an array needs to be created, it allocates a separate memory block and associates it with a new metadata
- fancy indexing always gives copies
- a copy can be forced by method `.copy()`



Exercise

`exercises/view_or_copy
/view_or_copy.ipynb`

A special kind of view: broadcasting operations

Memory block



NumPy array metadata

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(4, 9)
strides	(0, 8)

The shape says we have 4 rows and 9 columns

A stride of 0 means that for each new row, we don't move in memory

A special kind of view: broadcasting operations

Memory block

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

NumPy array metadata

dtype	int64
ndim	2
shape	(4, 9)
strides	(0, 8)

The shape says we have 4 rows and 9 columns

A stride of 0 means that for each new row, we don't move in memory

As a result, we obtain a view with duplicated rows, without using extra memory!

NumPy view

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

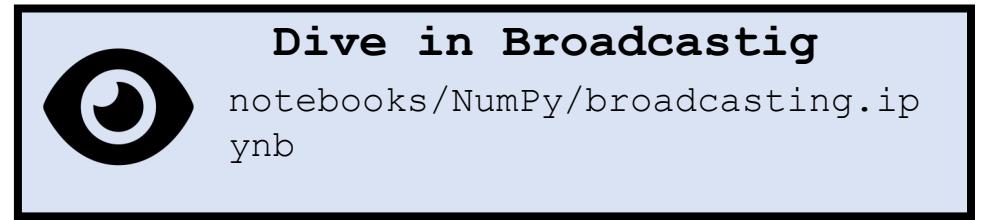
NumPy uses broadcasting to perform operation on arrays of different shape without having to allocate extra memory

The figure illustrates three examples of NumPy array addition using 3D visualizations:

- Example 1:** `np.arange(3) + 5`. The first array is a 1D array [0, 1, 2] shown as a single row of three boxes. The second array is a 1D array [5, 5, 5] shown as a single column of three boxes. The result is a 1D array [5, 6, 7] shown as a single row of three boxes.
- Example 2:** `np.ones((3, 3)) + np.arange(3)`. The first array is a 2D array of ones (3x3) shown as a 3x3 grid of boxes. The second array is a 1D array [0, 1, 2] shown as a single column of three boxes. The result is a 2D array where the first two columns are filled with 1 and 2 respectively, and the third column is filled with 3 (3x3).
- Example 3:** `np.arange(3).reshape((3, 1)) + np.arange(3)`. The first array is a 2D array (3x3) with values 0, 1, 2 repeated in each row. The second array is a 1D array [0, 1, 2] shown as a single column of three boxes. The result is a 2D array where the first two rows have values 0, 1, 2 and the third row has values 2, 3, 4 (3x3).



Broadcasting notebook summary



- how NumPy treats arrays with different shapes during arithmetic operations
- Rules of broadcasting
 - **1:** If the two arrays differ in their number of dimensions, the shape of the one with fewer dimensions is *padded* with ones on its leading (left) side.
 - **2:** If the shape of the two arrays does not match in any dimension, the array with shape equal to 1 in that dimension is stretched to match the other shape.
 - **3:** If in any dimension the sizes disagree and neither is equal to 1, an error is raised.

NumPy's speed efficiency



For-loops in Python vs in C

- Data is of a C numerical type → regular layout in memory
 - A C loop can jump from one memory location to the next by moving by “strides” bytes and accumulating the result
- To get that performance, one needs to vectorize! it's important to avoid for-loops at all costs

(with NumPy in Python)

Hey, what's your
name?
/



Right, what a stupid question.
I apologize, silly me.
I recognize the logo now.
/



...Anyway, I'm C++. So, er.. what's your
best quality? For me I'd say it's speed.
/



But I can be a bit verbose too, all
this templating these days, am I
right? haha.
/



Sorry, bye!
wow, how cold!
/



Python!
\\



Vectorization

operations performed on entire arrays **at once**

- Faster computation
- no looping through each element individually



Vectorization

operations performed on entire arrays **at once**

- Faster computation
- no looping through each element individually



Basic operators

Operator	Equivalent ufunc	Description
+	np.add	Addition (e.g., <code>1 + 1 = 2</code>)
-	np.subtract	Subtraction (e.g., <code>3 - 2 = 1</code>)
-	np.negative	Unary negation (e.g., <code>-2</code>)
*	np.multiply	Multiplication (e.g., <code>2 * 3 = 6</code>)
/	np.divide	Division (e.g., <code>3 / 2 = 1.5</code>)
//	np.floor_divide	Floor division (e.g., <code>3 // 2 = 1</code>)
**	np.power	Exponentiation (e.g., <code>2 ** 3 = 8</code>)
%	np.mod	Modulus/remainder (e.g., <code>9 % 4 = 1</code>)

Aggregation functions

Function Name	NaN-safe Version	Description
np.sum	np.nansum	Compute sum of elements
np.prod	np.nanprod	Compute product of elements
np.mean	np.nanmean	Compute mean of elements
np.std	np.nanstd	Compute standard deviation
np.var	np.nanvar	Compute variance
np.min	np.nanmin	Find minimum value
np.max	np.nanmax	Find maximum value
np.argmax	np.nanargmin	Find index of minimum value
np.argmax	np.nanargmax	Find index of maximum value
np.median	np.nanmedian	Compute median of elements
np.percentile	np.nanpercentile	Compute rank-based statistics of elements
np.any	N/A	Evaluate whether any elements are true
np.all	N/A	Evaluate whether all elements are true

Exercise: vectorize the code



Exercise

exercises/numpy_vectorize

- Open the notebook `numpy_vectorize`, and follow the instructions!
- Submit a PR for Issue #8 on
`git.aspp.school/ASPP/2024-heraklion-data`



For-loops in Python vs in C

- Data is of a C numerical type → regular layout in memory
 - A C loop can jump from one memory location to the next by moving by “strides” bytes and accumulating the result
- To get that performance, one needs to vectorize! it's important to avoid for-loops at all costs

(with NumPy in Python)

How is efficiency of Python vs C in the Big-O sense?

Hey, what's your name?
/



Right, what a stupid question.
I apologize, silly me.
I recognize the logo now.
/



...Anyway, I'm C++. So, er.. what's your best quality? For me I'd say it's speed.
/



But I can be a bit verbose too, all this templating these days, am I right? haha.
/



Sorry, bye!
wow, how cold!
/



Python!
\\



Tabular data



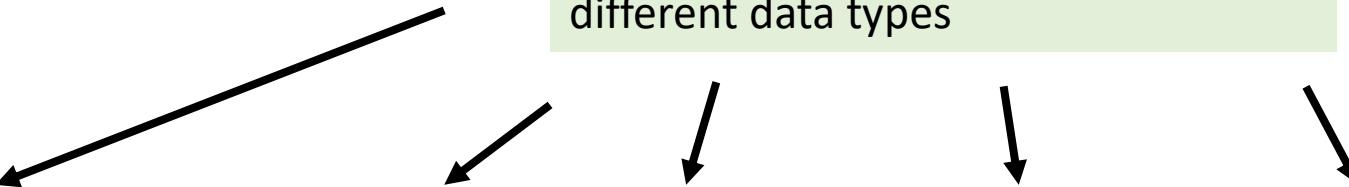
Spreadsheets and databases rule the world!



Ariel Fischman holds the Guinness World Record for owning the most spreadsheet software (over 500!)

What is tabular data?

Unlike arrays, each column can represent another type of value, with different data types



Date (index)	Wind speed	Wind direction	Rain fall (mm)	Hours of sun
7.3.2024	7.1	N	0.0	10
8.3.2024	0.3	NW	2.1	2
9.3.2024	1.1	SE	0.3	5

Subject ID (index)	Condition ID	Presentation nr	Response time (ms)	Response
VM	732	2	28	LEFT
VM	732	3	41	RIGHT
PB	665	1	73	LEFT

What is tabular data?

Column and rows have meaningful labels (indices) that are attached to the data for each operation

Date (index)	Wind speed	Wind direction	Rain fall (mm)	Hours of sun
7.3.2024	7.1	N	0.0	10
8.3.2024	0.3	NW	2.1	2
9.3.2024	1.1	SE	0.3	5

Subject ID (index)	Condition ID	Presentation nr	Response time (ms)	Response
VM	732	2	28	LEFT
VM	732	3	41	RIGHT
PB	665	1	73	LEFT

Many tools to handle tabular data

- Python tools
 - pandas: in-memory tabular data
 - dask: on-disk tabular data
- SQL databases
 - Optimized for retrieving rows (tree data structure for index)
 - Transactional: groups of operations are either all executed, or none
- Columnar DBs, Spark, Hadoop
 - Optimized for operations on columns
 - Ideal for data science tasks
 - Operations can be automatically distributed over multiple machines

Tabular data ideas and operations are universal for all tabular data tools

Pandas `df.groupby('condition_id')[‘response_time’].mean()`

dask `df.groupby('condition_id')[‘response_time’].mean()`

PySpark `df.groupby('condition_id').avg(‘response_time’)`

SQL `SELECT condition_id,
 AVG(response_time) AS avg_response_time
FROM df
GROUP BY condition_id;`

Introduction to Pandas



Live Coding

notebooks/030_tabular_data/
010_pandas_introduction.ipynb

Introduction to Pandas



Live Coding

notebooks/030_tabular_data/
010_pandas_introduction.ipynb

Main points:

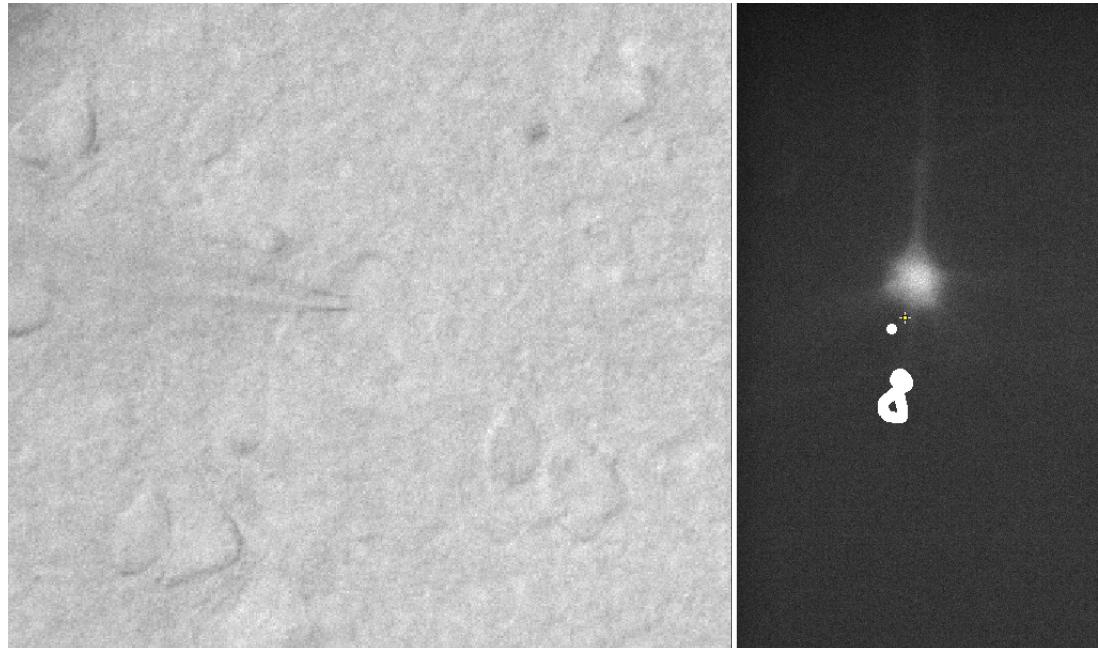
- A DataFrame is a tabular data structure
- DataFrames have labeled columns and rows (“indices”)
- Columns can be of different C-native dtypes
- Operations are on columns by default
- NaNs are interpreted as missing data and ignored in most operations
- Strings (and dates) have a special accessor to perform vectorized string (or date) operations

Basic Pandas reference slide

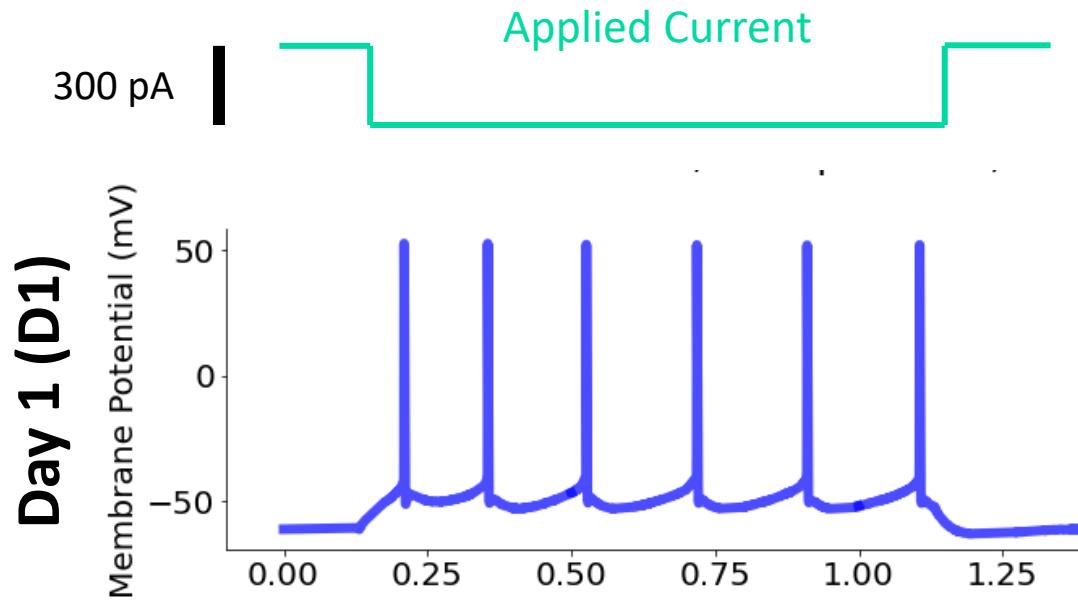
- Looking at data
 - `df.head()` : show the first 5 rows
 - `df.tail()` : show the last 5 rows
 - `df.sample(n)` : show n random rows
- Attributes
 - `df.shape` : size of the table
 - `df.dtypes` : print dtype of cols
 - `df.columns` : column index
 - `df.index` : rows index
- Indexing
 - `df['age']` : get column 'age'
 - `df[['age', 'name']]` : multiple columns
 - `df.iloc[0, 2]` : one element, by position
- Exploration
 - `df['name'].unique()` : unique values
 - `df['age'].describe()` : summary stats
 - `df['age'].value_counts(dropna=False)` : number of rows per unique value in column
- Adding a column
 - `df['new'] = df['age'] * 3.1` : add new column
- Filtering
 - `df[df['age'] > 30]` : select rows where condition is True
- Operations
 - `df.min(), .max(), .mean(), .std(), etc.` : column-wise operations
 - `df.count()` : count of non-NaN elements in columns
 - `df.sort_values('name')` : reorder rows by values of column 'name'
 - `df.sort_index()` : reorder rows by the index values
- String operations
 - `df['name'].str` : accessor for operations on the strings in a col
 - `df['name'].str[2:4]` : slice the strings in a col
 - `df['name'].str.count('a')` : count the letter 'a' in the string in a col

Tabular data example from the lab

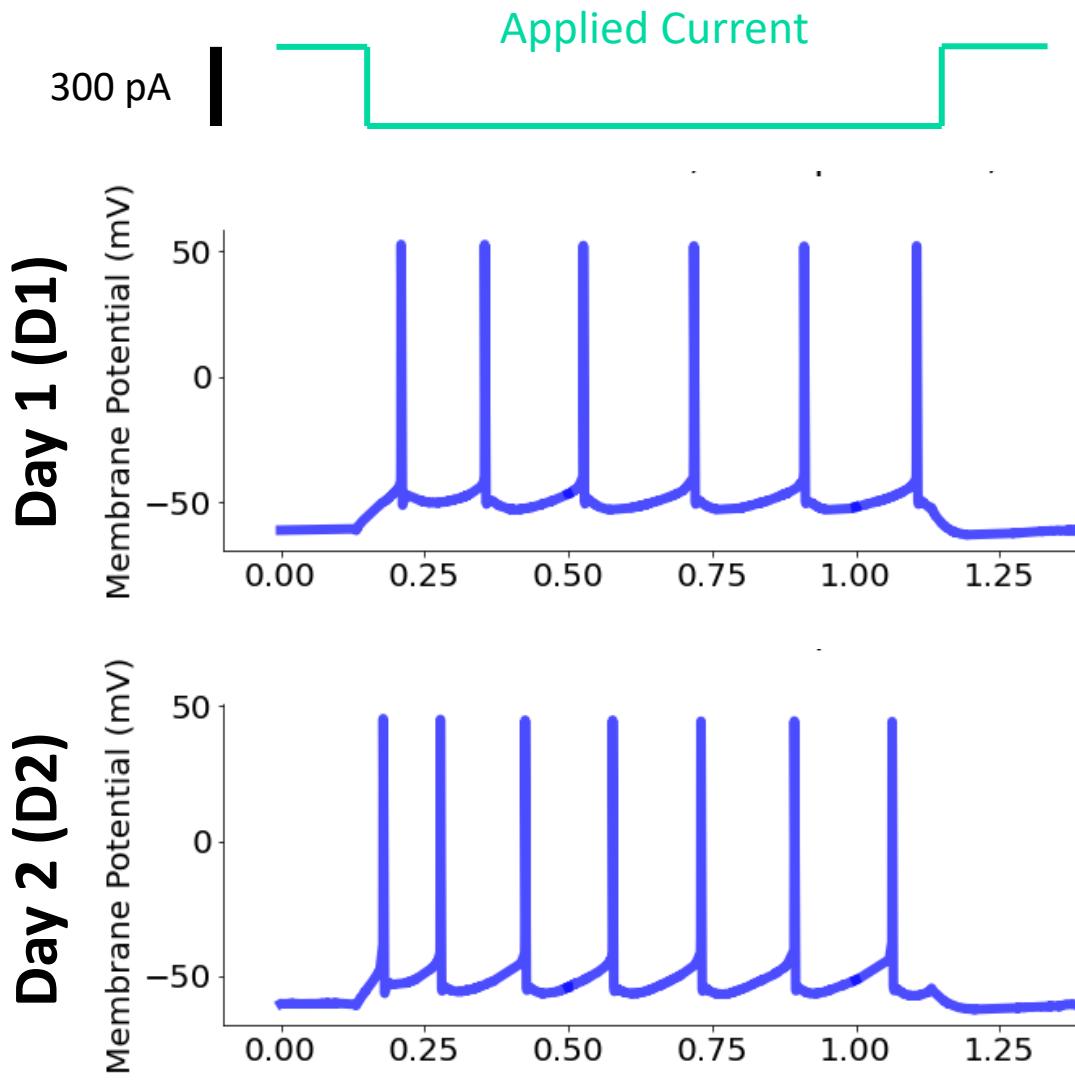
- Research question: Does neuronal activity change over time? Does this depend on the overall activity level of the neuronal network?
The mainstream theory suggests that neural activity is self-regulating to maintain a baseline level (“homeostatic plasticity”)
- Exp design: patch clamp recordings from the same cells (or different cells/ same slices) before and after prolonged incubation in high potassium (K)
- Potassium stimulates and TTX silences the entire network, allowing us to control the overall activity



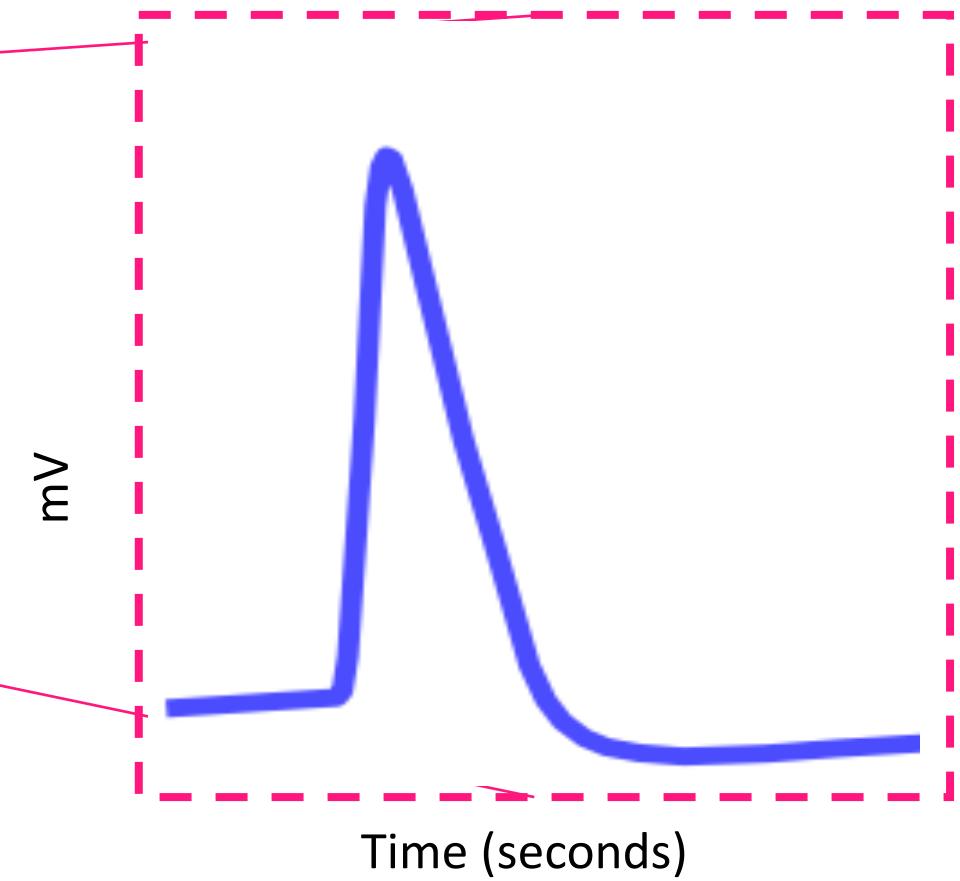
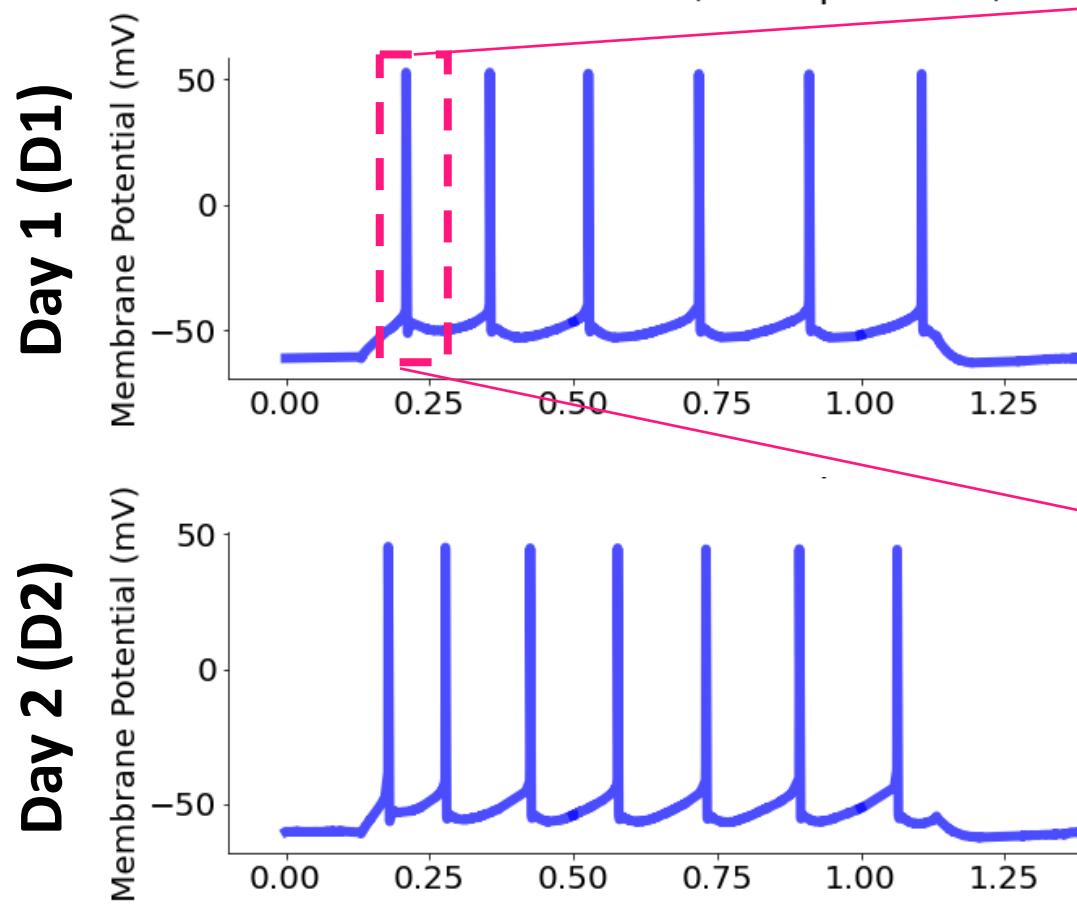
Variables



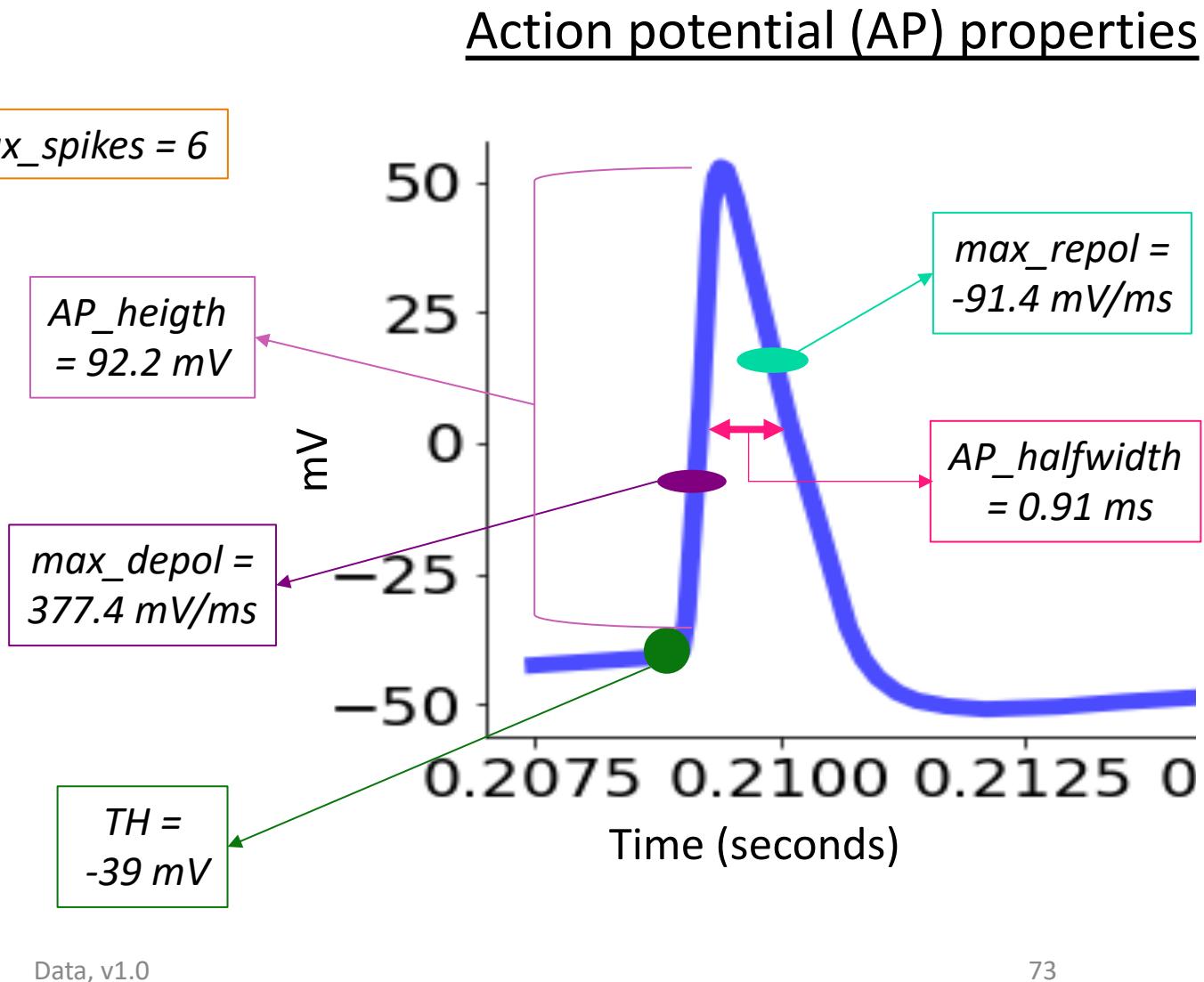
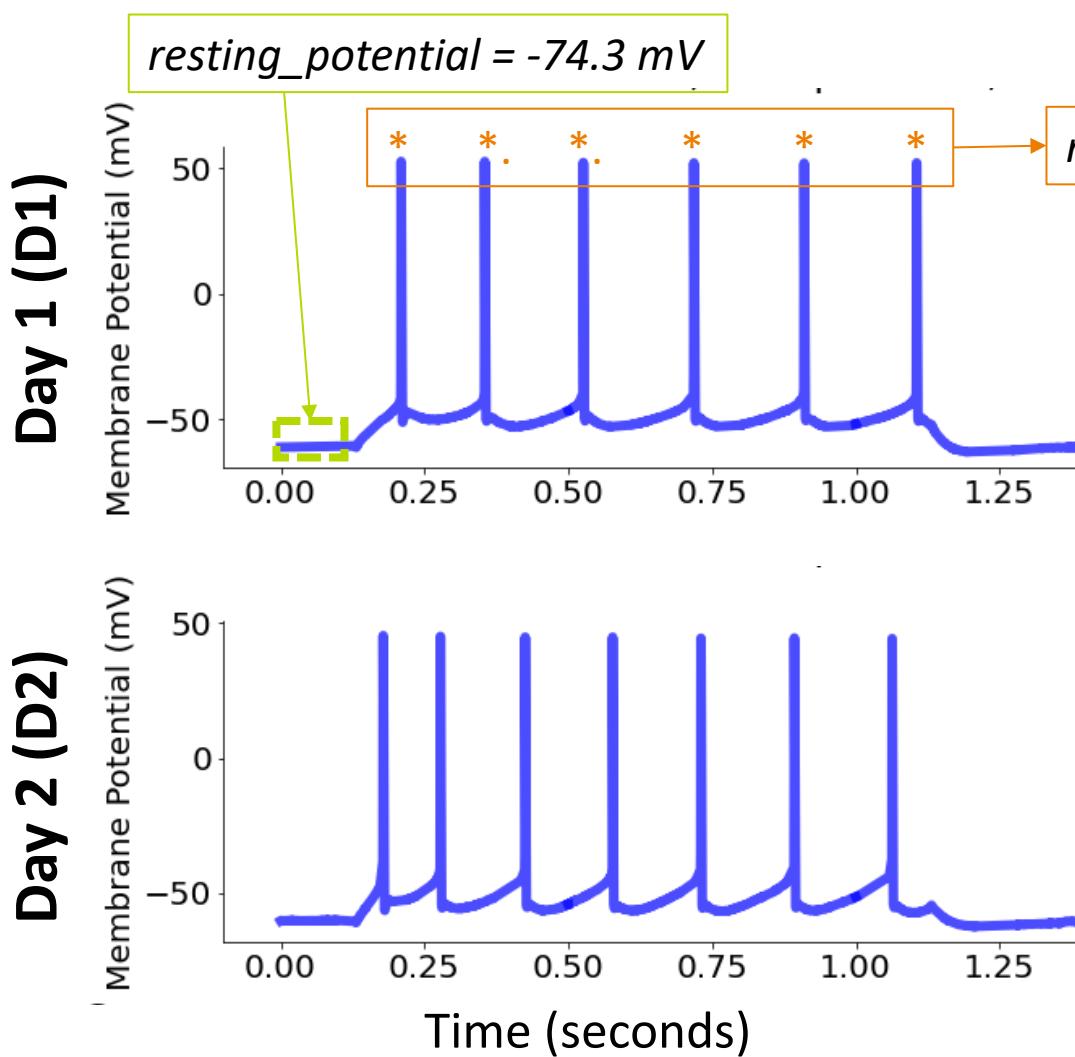
Variables



Variables



Variables



Hands-on

Let's have a look at the neural data



- Use Pandas to explore the neural data
- Submit a PR for Issue #2 on
git.aspp.school/ASPP/2024-heraklion-data

TABULAR DATA OPERATIONS

Common operations on tabular data

- Tabular data has additional needs compared to arrays. Understanding how to vectorize these operations is critical for handling them
- Combine information across tables (**join, anti-join**)
 - **Join**: e.g., combine table with experiments results with table with experiments metadata (date, location, experimenter, free-form notes, ...)
 - **Anti-join**: e.g. student compiles list of outliers, exclude them from the table of experiments to analyze
- Summary tables (**split-apply-combine**)
 - E.g., compute average measurement and standard deviation by experimental condition and treatment dosage
- Window functions to vectorize complex computations over groups
 - E.g., compute the time distance between experiments by lab technician

Joins

Join operations: combining informations from multiple tables

subject_id	condition_id	response_time	response
312	A1	0.12	LEFT
312	A2	0.37	LEFT
312	C2	0.68	LEFT
313	A1	0.07	RIGHT
313	B1	0.08	RIGHT
314	A2	0.29	LEFT
314	B1	0.14	RIGHT
314	C2	0.73	RIGHT



	orientation	duration	surround	stimulus_type
A1	0	0.1	FULL	LINES
A2	0	0.01	NONE	DOTS
B1	45	0.1	NONE	PLAID
B2	45	0.01	FULL	PLAID
C1	90	0.2	FULL	WIGGLES

subject_id	condition_id	response_time	response	orientation	duration	surround	stimulus_type
312	A1	0.12	LEFT	0.0	0.10	FULL	LINES
312	A2	0.37	LEFT	0.0	0.01	NONE	DOTS
312	C2	0.68	LEFT	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
313	A1	0.07	RIGHT	0.0	0.10	FULL	LINES
313	B1	0.08	RIGHT	45.0	0.10	NONE	PLAID
314	A2	0.29	LEFT	0.0	0.01	NONE	DOTS
314	B1	0.14	RIGHT	45.0	0.10	NONE	PLAID
314	C2	0.73	RIGHT	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN



Join operations



Live Coding

notebooks/tabular_data/
020_join_operations.ipynb

Join operations



Live Coding

notebooks/tabular_data/
020_join_operations.ipynb

Main points:

- Join operations can be used to combine two tables using the values of one or more columns
- Different types of join:
 - left/right: keep all the column values that are present in the first/second table
 - inner: keep all the column values that are present in both tables
 - outer: keep all the column values that are present in one or the other tables
- Anti-joins can be used to exclude the values that are present in one, but not the other table (filtering based on arbitrary criteria)

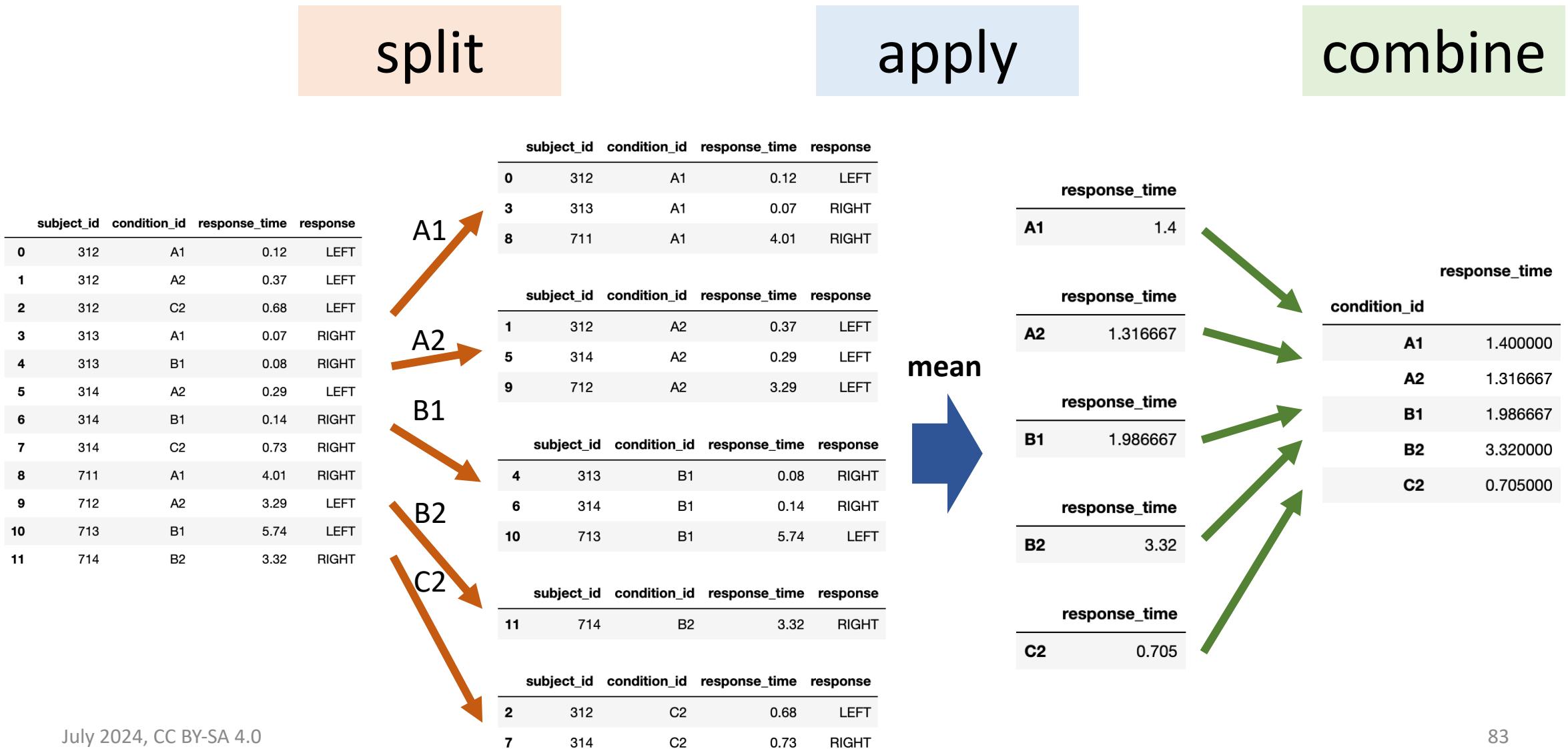
Hands-on



- Use joins to add experiment information to the neural data
- Use anti-joins to remove outliers
- Submit a PR for Issue #3 on
`git.aspp.school/ASPP/2024-heraklion-data`

Split-apply-combine

The basic structure of most numerical analyses



Split-apply-combine operations



Live Coding

`notebooks/030_tabular_data/
030_split-apply-combine.ipynb`

Split-apply-combine operations



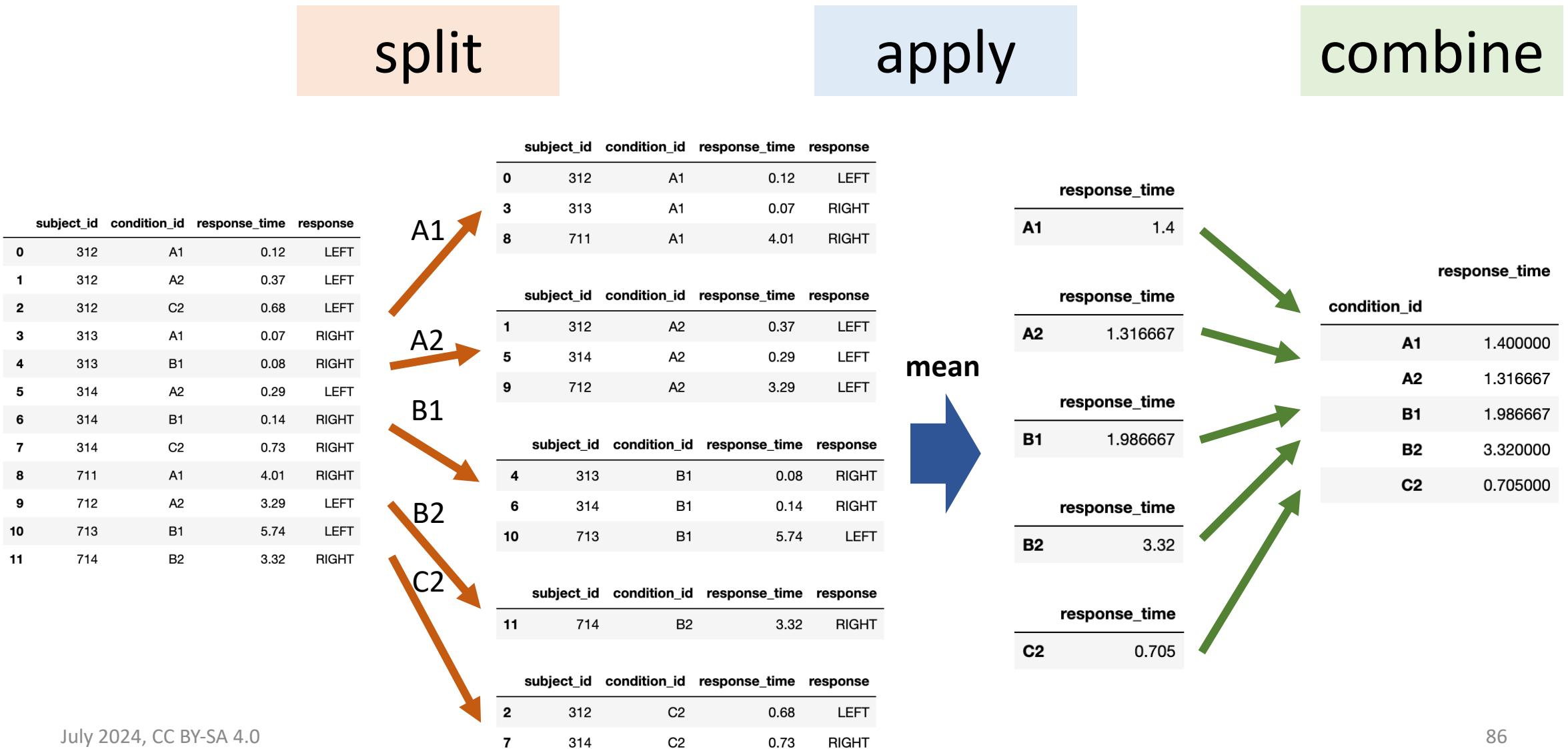
Live Coding

notebooks/030_tabular_data/
030_split-apply-combine.ipynb

Main points:

- Tabular data tools have a way to vectorize the standard split-apply-combine operations, using a “group-by” command
- In addition, Pandas has got a “pivot-table” command that can be used to simplify the creation of more complex summary tables

`df.groupby('condition_id')[‘response_time’].mean()`



```
data.pivot_table(  
    index='condition_id', columns='response',  
    values='response_time', aggfunc='mean',  
)
```

split

apply

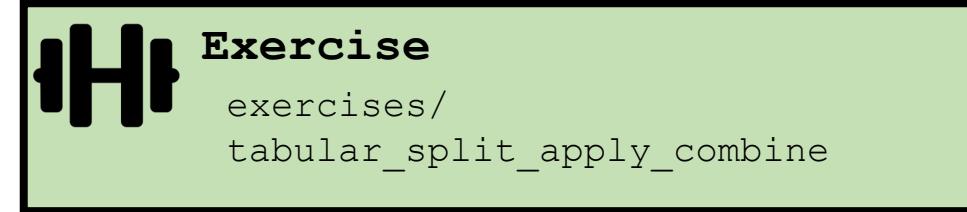
combine

	subject_id	condition_id	response_time	response
0	312	A1	0.12	LEFT
1	312	A2	0.37	LEFT
2	312	C2	0.68	LEFT
3	313	A1	0.07	RIGHT
4	313	B1	0.08	RIGHT
5	314	A2	0.29	LEFT
6	314	B1	0.14	RIGHT
7	314	C2	0.73	RIGHT
8	711	A1	4.01	RIGHT
9	712	A2	3.29	LEFT
10	713	B1	5.74	LEFT
11	714	B2	3.32	RIGHT



condition_id	response	LEFT	RIGHT
A1	0.12	2.04	
A2	1.32	NaN	
B1	5.74	0.11	
B2	NaN	3.32	
C2	0.68	0.73	

Hands-on



- Compute summary statistics for the neural data
- Submit a PR for Issue #4 on
git.aspp.school/ASPP/2024-heraklion-data

Hands-on



- Compute some summary tables for the WHO tuberculosis data

Males 15-24 years

	country	year	sp_m_014	sp_m_1524	sp_m_2534	...	sp_f_2534	sp_f_3544	sp_f_4554	sp_f_5564	sp_f_65
rownames											
5551	San Marino	2009	NaN	NaN	NaN	...	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
642	Belarus	2009	0.0	66.0	173.0	...	52.0	52.0	41.0	25.0	68.0
7234	Zimbabwe	2007	138.0	500.0	3693.0	...	3311.0	0.0	553.0	213.0	90.0
3471	Kuwait	2008	0.0	18.0	90.0	...	47.0	27.0	7.0	5.0	6.0
3336	Jordan	2009	1.0	5.0	15.0	...	14.0	8.0	3.0	7.0	12.0
2689	Grenada	2008	NaN	1.0	NaN	...	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
634	Belarus	2001	2.0	NaN	NaN	...	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN

Tidy Data

Same data, different organization

Which one is best for data analysis?

	John Smith	Jane Doe	Mary Johnson
treatmenta	—	16	3
treatmentb	2	11	1

name	trt	result
John Smith	a	—
Jane Doe	a	16
Mary Johnson	a	3
John Smith	b	2
Jane Doe	b	11
Mary Johnson	b	1

	treatmenta	treatmentb
John Smith	—	2
Jane Doe	16	11
Mary Johnson	3	1

Same data, different organization

Which one is best for data analysis?

What do we want?
We want data to be in a natural format, such that data analysis is easy

	John Smith
treatmenta	—
treatmentb	—

	treatmenta	treatmentb
—	—	2
16	11	1

name	trt	result
John Smith	a	—
Jane Doe	a	16
Mary Johnson	a	3
John Smith	b	2
Jane Doe	b	11
Mary Johnson	b	1

Tidy data

In tidy data:

1. Each variable forms a column
2. Each observation forms a row
3. Each type of observational unit forms a table

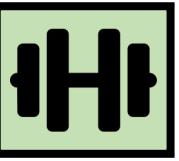
**Observations
(or samples)**

Variables (or features, attributes)

Subject ID	Condition ID	Trial nr	Response time (ms)	Response
VM	732	2	28	LEFT
VM	732	3	41	RIGHT
PB	665	1	73	LEFT

Variables increase when new types of measurements are introduced

Observations increase when new units (dates, subjects, ...) are measured



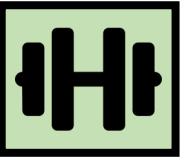
Hands-on

Identify variables, observations, and values.

What would a tidy version look like?

id	year	month	element	d1	d2	d3	d4	d5	d6	d7	d8
MX17004	2010	1	tmax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	1	tmin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	2	tmax	—	27.3	24.1	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	2	tmin	—	14.4	14.4	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	3	tmax	—	—	—	—	32.1	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	3	tmin	—	—	—	—	14.2	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	4	tmax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	4	tmin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	5	tmax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	5	tmin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 11: Original weather dataset. There is a column for each possible day in the month. Columns d9 to d31 have been omitted to conserve space.



Hands-on

Identify variables, observations, and values.

What would a tidy version look like?

id	year	month	element	d1	d2	d3	d4	d5	d6	d7	d8
MX17004	2010	1	tmax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	1	tmin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	2	tmax	—	27.3	24.1	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	2	tmin	—	14.4	14.4	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	3	tmax	—	—	—	—	32.1	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	3	tmin	—	—	—	—	14.2	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	4	tmax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	4	tmin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	5	tmax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MX17004	2010	5	tmin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 11: Original weather dataset. There is a column for each possible day in the month. Columns d9 to d31 have been omitted to conserve space.

id	date	tmax	tmin
MX17004	2010-01-30	27.8	14.5
MX17004	2010-02-02	27.3	14.4
MX17004	2010-02-03	24.1	14.4
MX17004	2010-02-11	29.7	13.4
MX17004	2010-02-23	29.9	10.7
MX17004	2010-03-05	32.1	14.2
MX17004	2010-03-10	34.5	16.8
MX17004	2010-03-16	31.1	17.6
MX17004	2010-04-27	36.3	16.7
MX17004	2010-05-27	33.2	18.2

(b) Tidy data

Messy data

Variables are stored in both rows and columns



city	type	date	temperature
Bilbao	tmax	2024-07-03	34
Bilbao	tmin	2024-07-03	25
Bordeaux	tmax	2024-03-21	29
Bordeaux	tmin	2024-03-21	23
Berlin	tmax	2021-08-16	21
Berlin	tmin	2021-08-16	14
Heraklion	tmax	2021-09-01	30
Heraklion	tmin	2021-09-01	23

Column headers are values, not variable names



subject	date	A	B
PB	2024-07-03	0.12	0.19
VM	2024-03-21	0.37	0.41
TZ	2021-08-16	0.68	0.73
LS	2021-09-01	0.07	0.08
ZS	2023-11-11	0.08	0.16

“Tidy datasets are all alike but every messy dataset is messy in its own way”
— Hadley Wickham

Some variables are stored in the file names



2024-01_prices_DE.csv
2024-01_prices_FR.csv
2024-02_prices_DE.csv
2024-02_prices_FR.csv

Multiple variables are stored in one column



country	year	variable	cases
Angola	2000	sp_m_014	186.0
Angola	2001	sp_m_014	230.0
Angola	2002	sp_m_014	435.0
Angola	2003	sp_m_014	409.0
Angola	2004	sp_m_014	554.0
Angola	2005	sp_m_014	520.0
Angola	2006	sp_m_014	540.0

The life-changing magic of tidying up data

Pivoting – we know this one

city	type	date	temperature
Bilbao	tmax	2024-07-03	34
Bilbao	tmin	2024-07-03	25
Bordeaux	tmax	2024-03-21	29
Bordeaux	tmin	2024-03-21	23
Berlin	tmax	2021-08-16	21
Berlin	tmin	2021-08-16	14
Heraklion	tmax	2021-09-01	30
Heraklion	tmin	2021-09-01	23

The “type” column is
storing variable names



pivot

city	date	type	tmax	tmin
		Berlin	2021-08-16	21
Bilbao	2024-07-03		34	25
Bordeaux	2024-03-21		29	23
Heraklion	2021-09-01		30	23

```
df.pivot_table(  
    index=['city', 'date'], columns='type',  
    values='temperature', aggfunc='max',  
)
```



The life-changing magic of tidying up data

Melting – it's kind of the opposite of pivoting

The treatment values are stored as a column name



subject	date	A	B
PB	2024-07-03	0.12	0.19
VM	2024-03-21	0.37	0.41
TZ	2021-08-16	0.68	0.73
LS	2021-09-01	0.07	0.08
ZS	2023-11-11	0.08	0.16



subject	date	variable	response_time
PB	2024-07-03	A	0.12
VM	2024-03-21	A	0.37
TZ	2021-08-16	A	0.68
LS	2021-09-01	A	0.07
ZS	2023-11-11	A	0.08
PB	2024-07-03	B	0.19
VM	2024-03-21	B	0.41
TZ	2021-08-16	B	0.73
LS	2021-09-01	B	0.08
ZS	2023-11-11	B	0.16



```
pd.melt(data, id_vars=['subject', 'date'], value_name='response_time')
```

Split the columns in (A) “id_vars” and (B) non-“id_vars”. The column names in (B) are used as new values in a new column “variable”. The values in columns (B) go into a new column, “response_time”.

The life-changing magic of tidying up data

`pd.concat` – add together tables with the same variables (columns)

Some variables
are stored in the
file names



2024-01_prices_DE.csv
2024-01_prices_FR.csv
2024-02_prices_DE.csv
2024-02_prices_FR.csv

```
tables = []
for filename in filenames:
    # Parse filename
    year_month, _, country = filename[:-4].split('_')
    # Read table and add columns for the variables
    df = pd.read_csv(filename)
    # Add the variables that were in the filename
    df['year_month'] = year_month
    df['country'] = country
    # Store table
    tables.append(df)

# Create complete table
tidy_df = pd.concat(tables)
```



Hands-on



Exercise

exercises/tabular_tidy_data

- Tidy up the data set in the tuberculosis exercise and compute the summary stats
- Submit a PR for Issue #5 on git.aspp.school/ASPP/2024-heraklion-data

Multiple variables
are stored in one
column

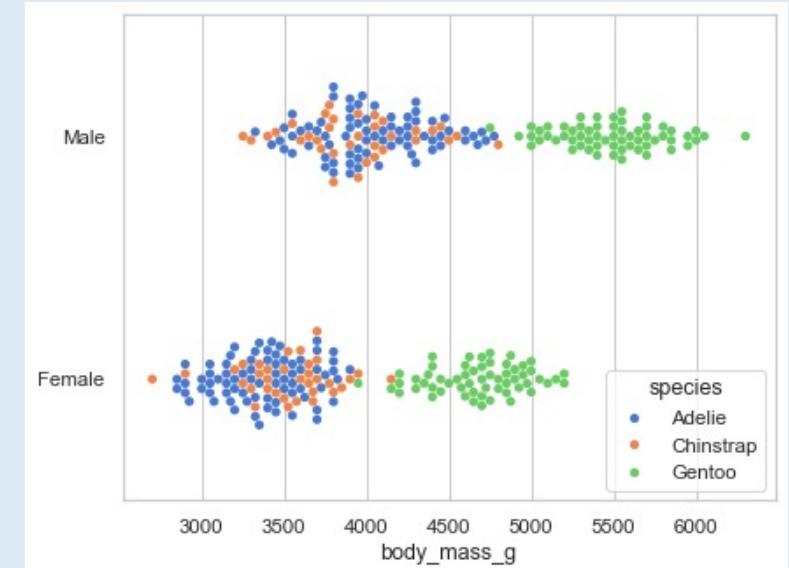


country	year	variable	cases
Angola	2000	sp_m_014	186.0
Angola	2001	sp_m_014	230.0
Angola	2002	sp_m_014	435.0
Angola	2003	sp_m_014	409.0
Angola	2004	sp_m_014	554.0
Angola	2005	sp_m_014	520.0
Angola	2006	sp_m_014	540.0

Why is tidy data good?

- Many analyses require a simple sequence of steps:
 - Filter by individual variables to discard data that is not needed
 - Group and summarize
 - Re-arrange (e.g. sort)
 - Visualize
- Joining tidy tables is easy!
- One can write generic code that takes tidy data as input.
For example, **seaborn** relies on tidy data to make complex plots

```
sns.swarmplot(  
    data=df,  
    x="body_mass_g",  
    y="sex",  
    hue="species",  
)
```



Window functions

Window functions: grouped row-by-row operations

- “Window functions” are a kind of split-apply-combine operation, but instead of aggregating the data in a group and returning one value per group, they return one value per row
- Examples: ranking all entries in a group; computing the distance between timestamps per group; number the rows by group in chronological order
- In Pandas, most of these operations can be performed with a combination of sorting and grouping-by

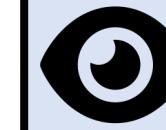
Window functions



Live Coding

notebooks/tabular_data/
040_window_functions.ipynb

Window functions



Live Coding

notebooks/tabular_data/
040_window_functions.ipynb

- Main points:
 - Window functions perform row-by-row operations on grouped data
 - They are an advanced way of avoiding for loops with tabular data
 - In Pandas, they can be achieved with a combo of sorting and grouping-by

Window functions operations

```
df['nr_lefts'] = df.sort_values('time (ms)').groupby('subject_id')['is_left'].cumsum()
```

subject_id	time (ms)	response	is_left
574	3	540	RIGHT False
1190	2	552	LEFT True
1895	2	1036	LEFT True
53	3	257	RIGHT False
158	2	743	RIGHT False
551	3	619	LEFT True
1602	1	43	RIGHT False
413	1	471	LEFT True
785	1	121	LEFT True
902	1	1093	LEFT True
1486	2	3	RIGHT False
629	2	353	LEFT True
1190	2	552	LEFT True
158	2	743	RIGHT False
1393	2	903	RIGHT False
629	2	353	LEFT True
1829	3	768	RIGHT False
902	1	1093	LEFT True
1486	2	3	RIGHT False

subject_id	time (ms)	response	is_left
1602	1	43	RIGHT False
785	1	121	LEFT True
413	1	471	LEFT True
902	1	1093	LEFT True
1486	2	3	RIGHT False
629	2	353	LEFT True
1190	2	552	LEFT True
158	2	743	RIGHT False
1393	2	903	RIGHT False
1895	2	1036	LEFT True
53	3	257	RIGHT False
574	3	540	RIGHT False
551	3	619	LEFT True
1829	3	768	RIGHT False

subject_id	nr_lefts
1602	0
785	1
413	2
902	3
1486	0
629	1
1190	2
158	2
1393	2
1895	3
53	0
574	0
551	1
1829	1

subject_id	time (ms)	response	is_left	nr_lefts
1602	1	43	RIGHT False	0
785	1	121	LEFT True	1
413	1	471	LEFT True	2
902	1	1093	LEFT True	3
1486	2	3	RIGHT False	0
629	2	353	LEFT True	1
1190	2	552	LEFT True	2
158	2	743	RIGHT False	2
1393	2	903	RIGHT False	2
1895	2	1036	LEFT True	3
53	3	257	RIGHT False	0
551	3	619	LEFT True	1
1829	3	768	RIGHT False	1

Hands-on



Exercise

exercises/
tabular_window_functions

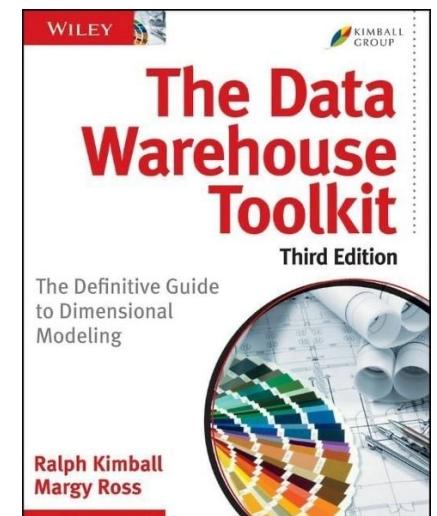
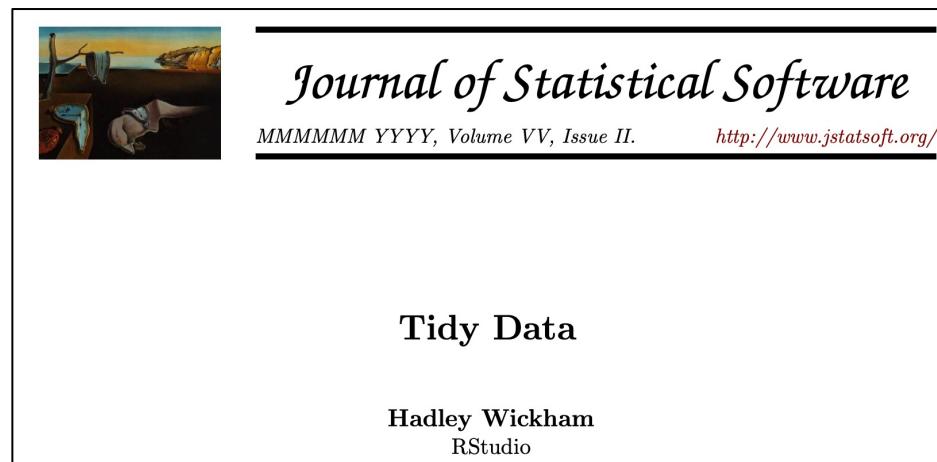
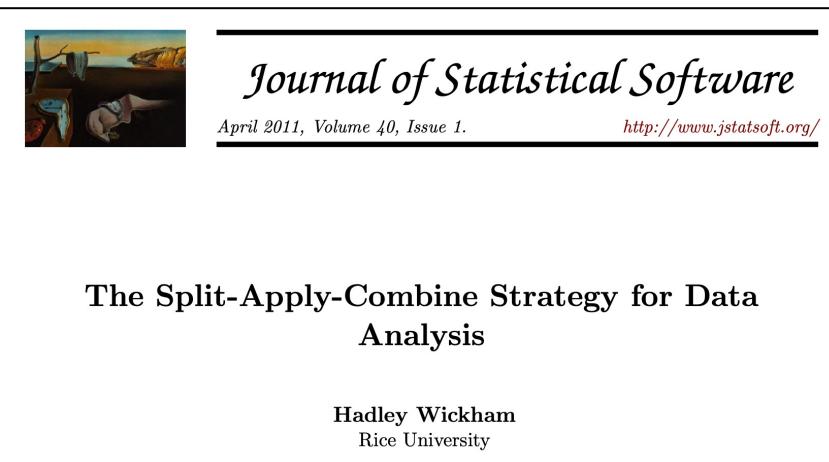
- Compute the average number of days each patcher waited between experiments
- Submit a PR for Issue #6 on
git.aspp.school/ASPP/2024-heraklion-data

Global summary

- There are many different data structures, each specialized in efficiently processing one type of data
- Code performance grows differently with data size: Big-O
- NumPy array efficiently store data in a C-native memory block, interpreted as an array using some metadata
- NumPy operations that only need to change the metadata do so, creating a view of the same memory block. These operations are $O(1)$!
- Tabular data can also be vectorized using joins, anti-joins, split-apply-combine operations, and window functions
- For these operations to be efficient and painless, data should be stored in a tidy data format

What we didn't talk about

- Other data structures: graphs, trees, priority queues, ...
- Options for working with large data on disk / remotely (instead of in-memory)
- Best practices in data handling: versioning, lineage, sharing
- Organizing a complex data set in multiple tables
- ... and a lot more!



Thank you!



Data organization

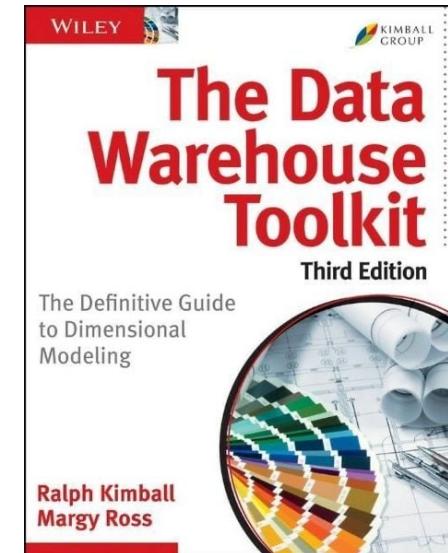
- Data organization concepts:
 - tidy data
 - normalized data (star organization)
 - data science friendly data (denormalized)

Organizing multiple tables

- Dimension vs fact tables
- De-normalization (but for data analysis flat tables are more convenient)

id	artist	track	time
1	2 Pac	Baby Don't Cry	4:22
2	2Ge+her	The Hardest Part Of ...	3:15
3	3 Doors Down	Kryptonite	3:53
4	3 Doors Down	Loser	4:24
5	504 Boyz	Wobble Wobble	3:35
6	98~0	Give Me Just One Nig...	3:24
7	A*Teens	Dancing Queen	3:44
8	Aaliyah	I Don't Wanna	4:15
9	Aaliyah	Try Again	4:03
10	Adams, Yolanda	Open My Heart	5:30
11	Adkins, Trace	More	3:05
12	Aguilera, Christina	Come On Over Baby	3:38
13	Aguilera, Christina	I Turn To You	4:00
14	Aguilera, Christina	What A Girl Wants	3:18
15	Alice Deejay	Better Off Alone	6:50

id	date	rank
1	2000-02-26	87
1	2000-03-04	82
1	2000-03-11	72
1	2000-03-18	77
1	2000-03-25	87
1	2000-04-01	94
1	2000-04-08	99
2	2000-09-02	91
2	2000-09-09	87
2	2000-09-16	92
3	2000-04-08	81
3	2000-04-15	70
3	2000-04-22	68
3	2000-04-29	67
3	2000-05-06	66



Dealing with changes in the data

- Recommendations:
 - NEVER overwite a data file. Treat data files as immutable
 - Use versioning for changes in the data file, and load the latest version for new analyses, old versions to reproduce previous results
 - (pond is a library I'm working on to automatize this process)
- Like in computer code:
 - Adding new columns / rows is generally ok
 - Deleting/changing a column is not! Code will break! Add a new column instead