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Programming in Python¹

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Lecture XV: Tabular data

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Tabular data



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Data are often given/collected as tables: matrices with rows for individual records and columns for the fields of the records. This is especially common in statistics, R has a built-in type for this: the dataframe.

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pandas



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pandas (Python for data analysis) brings the DataFrame type to Python. It is based on numpy.

- **Series**: a one-dimensional labeled array capable of holding any data type (integers, strings, floating point numbers, Python objects, etc.). The axis labels are collectively referred to as the index.
- **DataFrame**: a 2-dimensional labeled data structure with columns of potentially different types. You can think of it like a spreadsheet, or a `dict` of Series objects.

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```
import pandas as pd
s = pd.Series(np.random.randn(5), index=["a", "b",
↪ "c", "d", "e"])
```

s is a numpy array of floats, each one has a label.

```
d = {"b": 1, "a": 0, "c": 2}
```

```
s = pd.Series(d)
```

The ordering depends on Python and pandas version... The current ones takes the insertion order, but you can provide explicitly the index.

```
d = {"b": 1, "a": 0, "c": 2}
```

```
s = pd.Series(d, index=['a', 'b', 'c'])
```

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A Series is convenient because it is a ndarray (and can be vectorized) but also a dict.

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```
d = { "one": pd.Series([1.0, 2.0, 3.0], index=["a",
↪ "b", "c"]),
      "two": pd.Series([1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0],
↪ index=["a", "b", "c", "d"]),
}
```

```
df = pd.DataFrame(d)
```

A DataFrame has an index and a columns attribute.

There are many ways of creating DataFrames, see the docs.

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A famous example: Fisher's Iris flowers dataset.
150 records, "sepal length", "sepal width", "petal length", "petal width", "class"
iris = pd.read_csv('iris.csv')

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Two ways of indexing



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- `.loc[]` “label based”
- `.iloc[]` “position based”

For both you can use: a single value, a list of values, a boolean array. Two notable things:

- ① If you use a slice notation with `.loc ('a' : 'f')` the last value is included! (different from plain python and from `.iloc`)
- ② Can be also a callable function with one argument (the calling Series or DataFrame) and that returns valid output for indexing (one of the above)