Python for Data Analysis

Lecturer: Ivan Renesto

Course language

English

Course description and objectives

Python is a widely used high-level, general-purpose, interpreted, dynamic programming language.
Through this course you will learn how to manipulate, process, and clean data with Python, using its data-oriented library ecosystem and tools that will lay the foundations to let you become an effective data analyst.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- work with arrays and vectorized computation
- work with tabular or heterogeneous data
- plot and visualize data

Audience

The course is open to students of the Master of Science Programs at Bocconi University and is part of the Enhancing Experience activities. It is aimed at:

- those who want to approach the world of data analysis;
- students who want to acquire the basic knowledge to develop future expertise in the area of Data Science;
- those who are interested in facing advanced topics in Python or are planning to be part of projects where to extract information from a data set.

Upon successful completion of the course (attendance of at least 75% of the scheduled hours and passing the final exam), students will get 2 credits and an Open Badge, sharable across the web (LinkedIn) or personal CV.

Prerequisites

Knowledge of Python basics, having attended the curricular course 30424 Computer Science, or the extracurricular course: Python start, or having equivalent knowledge and skills.

Duration

16 hours

Teaching mode

Distance learning. Lessons will take place **exclusively** in **synchronous remote mode**.

The **final test** on the last day of class, however, can **only** be taken **in physical presence**. Online mode will not be provided.

Calendar

Lecture	Date	Time	Room
1	Tue 16/09/2025	18.15 - 19.45	Virtual room
2	Wed 17/09/2025	18.15 - 19.45	Virtual room
3	Tue 23/09/2025	18.15 - 19.45	Virtual room
4	Wed 24/09/2025	18.15 - 19.45	Virtual room
5	Tue 30/09/2025	18.15 - 19.45	Virtual room
6	Wed 01/10/2025	18.15 - 19.45	Virtual room
7	Tue 07/10/2025	18.15 - 19.45	Virtual room
8	Tue 14/10/2025	18.15 - 19.45	InfoAS04/05

Syllabus of the course

Lecture	Topics	Book reference
1	**Introduction to Visual Studio Code** - Preliminaries - Install Visual Studio Code - Walk through the development environment - Built-in data structures and sequences. *Exercises*	Ch. 1, 2, and 3
2	**Arrays and vectorized computation** - NumPy basics - Working with multidimensional array objects - Indexing, slicing, and transposing arrays - Array-Oriented Programming - Mathematical and statistical methods.	Ch. 4
3	**Plotting and visualization** - Data visualization using matplotlib - Figures and Axes - Saving figures to file - Sub-plots - Multiple line plots - Colors, line styles, axes limits, labels plot title, legend and other chart elements - Histograms.	Ch. 9
4	**Data manipulation with pandas** - Pandas basics - Introduction to Series, DataFrame, Index objects - Essential functionalities of pandas library - Summary statistics methods - Data visualization using pandas. *Exercises*	Ch. 5
5	**Problem requiring data analysis** - Data loading, storage and file formats - Dataset analysis - Reading and writing data in text format - Interacting with Web APIs - Interacting with Databases via pyodbc. *Exercises*	Ch. 6

Lecture	Topics	Book reference
6	**Data Cleaning and Preparation** - Handling missing data - Data formatting and string manipulation - Data transformation (normalization and binning) - Categorical values *Exercises*	Ch. 7
7	**Exploratory Data Analysis** - Descriptive statistics - GroupBy mechanics - The analysis of variance - Correlation between different variables - Pearson correlation and correlation heatmaps. *Exercises*	Ch. 8, 10, 12
8	**Final Exam**	

Software used

Python, version 3.9+. Current version is 3.13.5.
Python interpreter can be downloaded for free from here: https://www.python.org/downloads/.

Microsoft Visual Studio Code (VS Code). Current version is 1.101.2.
Visual Studio Code is a free coding editor that helps to start coding quickly. It supports multiple programming languages, and the use of a Python web-based interactive computing platform (Jupyter Notebook).
Supported in: Windows 10 and 11 (64-bit and Arm64), macOS 11.0+ versions with Apple security update support (Intel chip, or Apple silicon), Linux Ubuntu, Debian, Red Hat, Fedora, or SUSE.

VS Code can be downloaded from here: https://code.visualstudio.com/download.

Suggested bibliography

McKinney W., *Python for Data Analysis, second edition. Data Wrangling with Pandas, NumPy and IPython*, O'Reilly Media, 2017

Available seats

This activity is limited to **110** participants and reserved to **students of the Master of Science Programs**. Registrations cannot be carried out once this number has been reached or after closing of the registration period.