# SEBASTIAN FITZEK

# Introduction to DATA SCIENCE

A PYTHON Path for a Non-computer Scientist

Redactor: Anca Milu-Vaidesegan Tehnoredactor: Cristian Lupeanu

Toate drepturile asupra prezentei ediții aparțin Editurii COMUNICARE.RO, 2023.

Editura COMUNICARE.RO este departament în cadrul Școlii Naționale de Studii Politice și Administrative, Facultatea de Comunicare și Relații Publice.

#### Editura COMUNICARE.RO

SNSPA, Facultatea de Comunicare și Relații Publice Str. Povernei, nr. 6, sector 1 010643, București România Tel.: 0372.177.150

www.edituracomunicare.ro e-mail: editura@comunicare.ro

## **CONTENTS**

Biographical data / 11 Acknowledgments / 12 Foreword / 13 An introduction to Data Science from the perspective
of the communication and public relations specialist / 17
Part I: PROGRAMMING / 23
Python fundamentals in the introduction to Data Science $\ /\ 24$
Let's get started with Python basics! / 25  How to launch an interactive Python using IDLE / 26  Other online shells for Python / 27  Introduction to Data Types / 28  Let's learn how to code in Python / 29  Integers and Floats / 30  Basic operators / 32  Lesser-Known operators / 35  Variables / 35  Assignment operators / 37  Numbers & variables in the wild / 38  ★ Magic trick exercise / 40  ★ Exercises for basic variables in Python / 41
Strings Basic / 42
String operators / 43 String Indexing / 45 String Slices / 46 Print() function / 47 Escape characters / 47 Triple quotes / 49 More about strings / 51  * Exercises with strings / 52
Introducing functions / 53  Len() function / 55  Input / 56  Type Casting / 58  F Strings / 60  ★ Age calculator exercise / 60  ★ Shopping cart exercise / 61

```
The world of methods / 63
   Introducing methods Upper and Lower / 65
   Method of navigating documentation in Python / 66
   Help() & IPython / 68
   Reading function Signatures + Strip methods / 68
   Replace() / 70
   Other very useful string methods for data researchers / 71
   Method Chaining / 71
   ★ Exercises with string methods / 73
Booleans / 73
   Comparison operators / 75
   Comparing across types / 77
   Truthiness & Falseyness / 78
   The "in" operator / 79
   Comparing strings / 80
   ★ Exercises with Booleans / 83
Conditionals basics / 84
   Name length codealong / 86
   A tangent on indentation / 87
   Nesting conditionals / 88
   ★ Water boiling Codealong / 89
   ★ BMI calculator exercise / 89
   ★ Tweet checker exercise / 90
Writing more complex logic / 91
   Logical AND / 92
   Logical OR / 93
   Logical NOT / 94
   TruthyFalsey testing / 95
   Logical operator precedence / 96
   ★ Exercises with logical AND, OR, and NOT / 97
Loops / 98
   Avoiding infinite loops / 100
   The range() function / 101
   Working with Nested Loops / 102
   Break and continue keywords / 102
   ★ 99 Bottles of Beer Codealong / 104
   ★ Loops problem set / 104
   ★ Snake Eyes Codealong / 105
   ★ Dice Roller Exercise / 107
Functions / 108
   Our very first function! / 109
   Functions with an Input / 110
   Functions with multiple arguments / 112
   Introducing Return! / 113
```

Contents 7

```
Using the Return keyword / 113
   Default parameters / 114
   Ordering default parameters / 115
   KeywordNamed argument / 116
   ★ Function practice set / 117
Global Scope / 118
   Local Scope / 119
   Scope in loops and conditionals / 120
   Enclosing Scope / 120
   Built-in Scope / 121
   Scope precedence rules / 122
   The 'Global' keyword / 123
   ★ Exercises for understanding the Global Scope / 124
Lists the basics / 124
   Accessing data in lists / 126
   Updating list elements / 127
   Append() and Extend() / 127
   Insert() / 128
   List Slices / 129
   Deletion methods pop(), popitems(), remove() / 130
   Iterating over lists / 131
   Lists + loops patterns / 133
   Nested lists / 135
   List operators / 136
   Sort(), Reverse(), and Count() / 137
   Lists are mutable / 138
   Comparing lists == vs is / 139
   Join() and Split() / 139
   List unpacking / 140
   Copying lists / 141
   ★ Exercises with lists / 143
   ★ Todo list exercise intro / 144
Dictionaries / 145
   Creating your Dictionaries / 146
   Accessing data in Dictionaries / 148
   Adding and updating data in Dictionaries / 149
   The Get() method and "in" operator / 150
   Dictionary Pop(), Clear(), and Del() / 151
   Dictionaries are mutable too! / 152
   Iterating Dicts Keys(), Values(), and Items() / 153
   Fancy Dictionary merging / 154
   Lists and Dicts combined / 155
   Fromkeys() / 156
   Update() / 157
   ★ Peak Dictionary exercise / 158
```

### Sets and Tuples / 159 Tuple functionality / 161 Sets introduction / 162 Set operators: Intersection, Union, Difference / 163 ★ Exercises with sets / 165 Back to functions. Introducing args / 165 Introducing Kwargs / 167 Parameter list ordering / 168 A common gotcha mutable default Args / 169 Unpacking Args / 170 ★ ArgsKwargs Exercises / 170 Working with Errors / 171 Common error types / 172 Raising exceptions / 173 When to raise / 174 Try and except / 175 LBYL and EAFP / 176 ★ Exercises with correct error handling / 177 Modules / 178 Working with built-in modules / 179 Most popular built-in modules for Data Science / 180 Fancy import syntax / 181 Creating custom modules / 182 3rd party modules Pip & PyPI / 183 Our first Pip package! / 183 ★ Sentiment analysis fun project installation / 184 Object-Oriented Programming / 185 Class Syntax / 186 Writing our first class / 187 Instance methods / 188 ★ Practicing Instance methods / 189 Class Attributes / 190 Class Methods / 191 Inheritance basics / 192 The Super() function / 192 Part II: VISUALIZATION IN DATA SCIENCE USING THE MOST IMPORTANT PYTHON MODULES / 195 Introduction to Pandas module / 197 How to install Pandas? / 198 Create a Series in Pandas / 199 Create a DataFrame in Pandas / 200

Read a CSV file with Pandas / 202

Contents 9

Advanced parameters / 203 Selecting rows and columns in Pandas / 204 Data wrangling in Pandas / 206 Arithmetics and statistics in Pandas / 210 Hierarchical indexing in Pandas / 212 Aggregation in Pandas / 214 Data Export in Pandas / 215 Pivot and Pivot Table in Pandas / 216 Visualization in Pandas / 217 ** A few exercises with Pandas / 229
NumPy, a perfect tool for working with Arrays / 230 Matrix Manipulation in Numpy / 237 Array Mathematics in Numpy / 239 Array Manipulation / 244  * Exercises with NumPy / 251
Let's delve into DataVisualization in Python / 252  DataVizualization with Matplotlib / 253  ★ Matplotlib exercises for DataVisualization / 256  Seaborn / 257  ★ Some exercises with Seaborn / 265  Web Scraping in Data Science / 266  Scraping websites with Selenium / 272  ★ A few exercises with Webscarping / 275  ★ Example of Gaussian noise (standard deviation) / 275  Part III: INTRODUCTION TO
BUSINESS STATISTICS IN DATA SCIENCE / 279  Big Data, Statistics, and Probability / 280  Business Intelligence (BI) techniques / 281  Big Data and Statistics / 282  Hypothesis testing / 285  Basic probability with Python / 286  Probability in Data Science / 288  Fundamentals of Combinatorics / 289  Bayes' Law / 291  Fundamentals of Probability Distributions / 292  * A Practical Example of Combinatorics / 294  * A Practical Example of Bayesian Inference / 295
Descriptive statistics / 297  Statistics with population and sample / 299  Cross Tables and Scatter Plots / 300  Skewness exercise solution / 302  ★ Exercises with Histograms in Descriptive Statistics / 303  ★ Correlation exercise / 303

#### Inferential Statistics / 304 Inferential Statistics Confidence Intervals / 306 The Normal Distribution / 308 ★ Exercises with practical examples of Inferential Statistics / 310 Correlation and Regression / 312 More about Correlation vs Regression / 314 ★ Exercises with Correlation and Regression / 315 Time Series Analysis / 316 Time Series Forecasting / 317 Time Series – Visualization Basics / Time Series – Power Transformation / 321 ★ Exercises with Time Series Analysis / 322 Part VI: MACHINE LEARNING (optional) / 323 Scikit-learn, a free machine learning for advanced / 323 Description of the start-up process / 325 Description of the start-up process / 325 Training and Test Data in Scikit-learn / 327 Processing The Data Standardization in Scikit-learn / 329 Normalizer class in Scikit-learn's / 329 Binarization in Scikit-learn / 330 Encoding Categorical Features in Scikit-learn / 331 Imputing Missing Values in Scikit-learn / 333 Generating Polynomial Features in Scikit-learn / 334 Create your model in Scikit-learn / 335 Model Fitting in Scikit-learn / 338 Prediciton in Scikit-learn / 339 Evaluate your model's performance in Scikit-learn / 340 Tune your model in Scikit-learn / 341 ★ Exercises with Scikit-learn / 343 ★ How machine learning helps us as Data Scientists / 344 ★ Conclusions and tips for the future Data Science specialist / 346 ★ Where and what online materials we could read to learn more about Data Science / 347 ★ What kind of jobs can I find in Communication and Data Science, where, and how? / 348 ★ The impact of Data Science and Communication on the future of human society / 350

#### **FOREWORD**

Asking yourself the most important questions is a good way to introduce a book dedicated to Data Science because it helps to set the stage for the material that will be covered in the book. By asking questions, you can get a sense of what the book will be about and what you can expect to learn from it. Additionally, asking questions can help to engage the reader and get them thinking about the topic at hand, which can make the material more interesting and relevant to their own experiences. So, the first legitimate question is why is Data Science today a discipline of great importance for the present and future of master students? For sure, Data Science is a discipline of great importance today because it allows organizations to make better decisions by leveraging the vast amounts of data that are generated in today's world. With the help of Data Science, organizations can gain insights into their operations and customers, and use that information to improve their products, services, and overall business strategies. Additionally, Data Science is a rapidly growing field, with many job opportunities for individuals with the right skills and training. As a result, pursuing a master's degree in communication and Data Science can open a wide range of career possibilities for students.

Another key question is why should communication students be the ones to start and deepen Data Science or what is the connection between communication and public relations students and Data Science? Communication and public relations students should be interested in studying Data Science because it can help them better understand and analyze the vast amounts of data that are generated in today's world. Data Science can provide communication and public relations students with the skills to glean meaningful insights from data, which can be utilized to elevate and refine their practices in these areas. Learning Data Science, students can also gain the ability to extract valuable insights from data that can be applied to enhance their work in communication and public relations. Additionally, Data Science

ence can help communication and public relations students to better understand the needs and preferences of their target audience, and to create more effective communication strategies and campaigns. Finally, the skills and knowledge gained from studying Data Science can be highly valuable in the job market and can help communication and public relations students stand out from their peers and advance their careers.

A thirty-concrete key question would be how can it open a career and what are the shortcuts to success for any student wishing to specialize in this field? Studying Data Science can open a wide range of career possibilities for students. Data Science professionals may find employment as data scientists, data analysts, machine learning engineers, or business intelligence analysts. Alternatively, those with a strong background in Data Science may choose to pursue careers as data scientists, data analysts, machine learning engineers, or business intelligence analysts. In these roles, individuals can work in a variety of industries, including technology, finance, healthcare, and government, to help organizations make better decisions using data. To succeed in this field, students should be prepared to learn a wide range of technical skills, such as programming, statistics, and machine learning, as well as soft skills, such as problem-solving and communication. Additionally, students can gain a competitive advantage by participating in internships or other hands-on learning experiences, as well as by staying up to date with the latest developments in the field.

However, the field is very broad and then we should ask ourselves which parts or structures of Data Science are worth learning in the early stages. In this sense, what is worth studying in a master's program of only 2 years, having this limited time, and what is worth didactically deepened in the early stages of initiation? In a master's program with a limited time frame, students need to prioritize the key concepts and skills that are most essential for success in Data Science. Some of the most important areas to focus on in the early stages of a Data Science program include:

 In Part I of this book, we will learn Fundamental Programming in Python: Data Science involves working with large and complex Foreword 15

datasets, and students will need to be proficient in **Python**, to manipulate and analyze that data.

- In Part II of this book, we will learn about Data Visualization and other key procedures for a communication and data science specialist. Data visualization is an important tool for communicating the results of data analyses, and students will need to learn how to create clear and effective visualizations to effectively communicate their findings. Web scraping is an important tool for data scientists because it allows them to extract data from websites and turn it into structured, usable data that can be analyzed and visualized.
- In Part III: Introduction to business statistics in Data Science. This
  part aims to provide a fundamental understanding of statistics and
  its role in data science and business, as well as equip students with
  the tools and skills to apply statistical analysis to real-world situations.
- Part IV of this book is optional and is intended for readers who wish
  to further their knowledge in communication and data science. It
  covers the topic of Machine learning and is geared towards those
  who want to rapidly progress in this field and delve into advanced
  areas of data science. For the basics of this discipline, I recommend delving into just the first two parts, and optionally part three.

By focusing on these key areas, students can gain a solid foundation in Data Science, which they can then build upon in more advanced coursework and real-world experiences. The four stages of study broadly make up the overall structure of this book. By learning programming, statistics, machine learning, and data visualization, students can gain a solid foundation in Data Science, which they can then build upon in more advanced coursework and real-world experiences. These four areas are essential for success in Data Science because they provide the tools and techniques needed to manipulate, analyze, and interpret data, as well as to communicate the results of those analyses to others.

As the author of this book, I agree that organizing information into theoretical, example and practical components is an effective way to help students assimilate key information quickly and efficiently. By providing a mix of conceptual and practical material, students can

gain a deep understanding of the subject matter and apply this knowledge to real-world problems and scenarios. In addition, by providing examples and exercises, students can see how the concepts they are learning apply in practice, which can help to reinforce their understanding and facilitate the transfer of knowledge to new situations. Overall, this approach can help to engage and motivate learners and help them develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed as communication and data scientists.

I hereby wish my students and all my readers to use this book to the fullest and learn to love Data Science professionally and then teach others as I have lovingly taught them. The best way to learn about any subject is to approach it with an open mind and a willingness to try new things. To maximize the benefit of this book, I would encourage my students to engage with the material actively, asking questions, trying out the examples and exercises, and seeking out additional resources and opportunities to learn more. Additionally, I encourage them to connect with other Data Science enthusiasts and professionals, either through online communities or in-person events, to learn from each other and stay up to date with the latest developments in the field. By adopting this approach, my students can develop a deep understanding of Data Science and they can become skilled and knowledgeable professionals who are well-equipped to teach others.