



# Reading: Reference guide: Pandas methods for the discovery of a dataset

## Python reference guide for EDA: Discovering

Use the following pandas methods and attributes to help you learn about a dataset when you encounter it for the first time.

### Save this course item

You may want to save a copy of this guide for future reference. You can use it as a resource for additional practice or in your future professional projects. To access a downloadable version of this course item, click the link below and select "Use Template."

[Reference guide: Pandas methods for the discovery of a dataset](#)

OR

If you don't have a Google account, you can download the item directly from the attachment below.



Reference guide: Python functions for the discovery of a dataset

### DataFrame.head()

- The **head()** method will display the first n rows of the dataframe.
- In the argument field, input the number of rows you want displayed in a Python notebook. The default is 5 rows.
- Once executed, the **head()** method returns something like this:

**df.head(10)**

index	date	number of strikes	center point geom
0	2018-01-03	194	POINT(-75 27)
1	2018-01-03	41	POINT(-78.4 29)
2	2018-01-03	33	POINT(-73.9 27)

3	2018-01-03	38	POINT(-73.8 27)
4	2018-01-03	92	POINT(-79 28)
5	2018-01-03	119	POINT(-78 28)
6	2018-01-03	35	POINT(-79.3 28)
7	2018-01-03	60	POINT(-79.1 28)
8	2018-01-03	41	POINT(-78.7 28)
9	2018-01-03	119	POINT(-78.6 28)

**Note:** In a Python notebook, the results of `head()` will not include a table with visible grid lines.

## DataFrame.info(X)

- The `info()` method will display a summary of the dataframe, including the range index, dtypes, column headers, and memory usage.
- Leaving the argument field blank will return a full summary. As an option, in the argument field you can type in `show_counts=True`, which will return the count of non-null values for each column.
- Once executed, the `info()` method returns something like this:

**Note:** The following code block is not interactive.

```
df.info()
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex:3401012 entries, 0 to 3401011
Data columns (total 3 columns):
#      Column              Dtype
--      ----              -
0      date                  object
1      number_of_strikes     int64
2      center_point_geom     object
Dtypes: int64(1), object(2)
Memory usage 77.8+ MB
```

## DataFrame.describe()

- The `describe()` method will return descriptive statistics of the entire dataset, including total count, mean, minimum, maximum, dispersion, and distribution.

- Leaving the argument field blank will default to returning a summary of the data frame's statistics. As an option, you can use "include=[X]" and "exclude=[X]" which will limit the results to specific data types, depending on what you input in the brackets.
- Once executed, the `describe()` method returns something like this:

`df_joined.describe()`

N/A	longitude	latitude	number_of_strikes_x	number_of_strikes_y
count	717530.00	717530.00	717530.00	323700.00000
mean	-90.875445	33.328572	21.637081	25.410587
std	13.648429	7.938831	48.02952	57.421824
min	-133.9000	16.600000	1.00000	1.000000
25%	-102.80000	26.900000	3.00000	3.000000
50%	-90.300000	33.200000	6.00000	8.000000
75%	-80.900000	39.400000	21.00000	24.000000
max	-43.800000	51.700000	2211.00000	2211.000000

**Note:** In a Python notebook, the results of `describe()` will not include a table with visible grid lines.

## DataFrame.shape

- `shape` is an attribute that returns a tuple representing the dimensions of the dataframe by number of rows and columns. Remember that attributes are not followed by parentheses. The code will look something like this:

**Note:** The following code block is not interactive.

```
df.shape
(3401012, 3)
```

## Key takeaways

`head()`, `info()`, `describe()`, and `shape` are pandas tools that data scientists can use to understand a dataset at a high level. The information learned from using these tools will serve to inform the remainder of your EDA work when you use pandas to analyze data throughout your career.

## Resources for more information

For more information on the EDA discovering functions above and others like it, you can use the online Pandas reference guide:

- [A list of Pandas dataframe functions](#)
-