df.columns = [col.replace(' ', '\_') for col in df.columns]

getting rid of stars

df.IR = df.IR.str[:-3]

df.IR.str[0]

df['column\_name'].fillna(value\_to\_replace\_missing\_values)

When your variable has only a few possible values (df[var].nunique() to work out the number of different possible values) it would be a good idea to set it as a categorical variable ---> df['var'].astype(category)